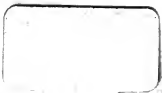
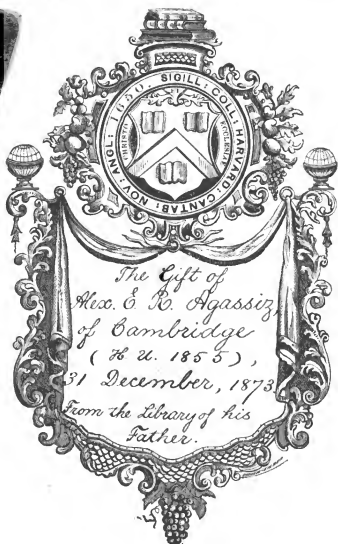


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HAÏTI AS IT IS.

[*The Author reserves the right of Translation.*]

HAÏTI AS IT IS ;

BEING

NOTES OF FIVE MONTHS' SOJOURN

IN THE

NORTH AND NORTH-WEST OF HAÏTI,

BY

ROBERT S. E. HEPBURN,

LATE CHEMIST AND GEOLOGIST TO THE REPUBLIC OF HAÏTI.

" One of the most beautiful islands in the world, and doomed to be one of the most unfortunate."—WASHINGTON IRVING.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA :

A. DECORDOVA & NEPHEW, HARBOUR STREET.

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1861

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From the Library
of his father.

TO
HIS EXCELLENCY FABRE GEFFRARD,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAÏTI,
WITH DEEP RESPECT
FOR HIS PATRIOTISM AND MANY OTHER VIRTUES,
THE FOLLOWING PAGES
Are Dedicated,
BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S ATTACHED
AND
FAITHFUL SERVANT,
THE AUTHOR.

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Introduction.

"It is a strange thing that, in sea voyages, where there is nothing to be seen but sky and sea, men should make diaries; but in land travel, wherein so much is to be observed, for the most part they omit it; as if chance were fitter to be registered than observation."—BACON.

To write the history of a sojourn in any country, in the form of a journal,—recording each fact or observation in the order of chronological sequence,—besides labouring under the disadvantage of being simply a medley of facts thrown together, without reference to the subjects embraced, or the conclusions to be arrived at by the reader, is, in most cases, dry and uninteresting, whilst the narrative is apt to merge into a gossiping style, which, to persons of well regulated minds, is exceedingly distasteful.

There are some persons peculiarly prone to gossip. They delight in telling, and hearing some new thing,—not because they convey to others, or themselves derive any new ideas by this means—but, because it is to them a very pleasant way of passing a leisure moment.

My purpose, is not to engage in gossip, nor to gratify an idle curiosity, but rather to endeavour to convey to the reader correct notions of my impressions of a country and people, about which the majority of persons in this Island appear anxious to be accurately informed.

Upon my arrival in this city from Haïti, in the Steamer *Talisman*, I had many queries put to me respecting the present condition of Haïti, in a social, political, and commercial point of view. In addition to these, many persons were anxious for information on the character of the country itself, as well as the nature of its mineral wealth. It was scarcely possible to convey to the querists any correct notions on the points upon which information was sought, apart from a careful analysis of facts and observations recorded in my journal, in order to ascertain to what general conclusions they pointed. It was also necessary to consider, what points required elucidation, in so far as they appear to be the results of past events, and as they relate to the present condition, and future destinies of that country.

I determined, therefore, to reduce my notes under certain general heads, which would in themselves embrace a statement pointing to one or more general conclusions, relating to its politics and commerce, its agri-

cultural and mining prospects, its scenery and climate, as well as an account of the geological structure of that part of the country through which I travelled. Such is a brief statement of the plan which I propose adopting in the following pages.

The task which I have assigned myself, is surrounded with peculiar difficulties. It is one open to errors of a peculiar kind, such as over-rating or under-rating, by placing small virtues in too prominent a light, or by fixing the eye too steadily on failings, arising out of circumstances beyond legitimate control, and magnifying them into great faults. A strict adherence to truth is the only means of avoiding these two extremes; it is indeed the only means of serving faithfully a people, justly proud of their independence and anxious to take up an honorable position amongst nations. To say that the people of Haïti are without their shortcomings would be simply untrue; but to deny to them the possession of any virtues whatever, or to make them the subject of scorn, ridicule, and contempt, is not only unfair, but also slanderous and malicious. There are many points in the Haïtien character that admit of severe animadversion, but then let us remember that they possess traits of character worthy of our warmest admiration, and, that these if counterpoised, against the others, will be found so far to out-weigh them, that

all things taken together, we would not hesitate to say of them, as Columbus said of the aborigines of that very country, "there is not in the world a better nation, nor a better land."

Throughout the eventful history of this interesting country—eventful from the day that Columbus first landed on its shores to the present—there is perhaps none more so than the passing period. We find it arrived at a point when all bids fair for future progress and prosperity, seeming to have arrived at a position from whence the long wished for goal may be viewed, so that the prize appears to be within their anxious grasp, passing events would seem to be removing it further from them, and rendering the consequence inevitable, that the struggle should be renewed. By the perfidy of one man, a people inimical to the African and his descendants are brought within their borders to threaten their independence, and not only so, to close the door of refuge against the sons and daughters of the African and his descendants, whom American slaveholders, after having employed them to the worst of purposes, have heartlessly exiled. I would, therefore, invite attention to the following details, which I trust will be found interesting, whilst they will, I hope, convey correct notions of the present condition, and future prospects of the Haïtien republic.

CHAPTER I.

The Political Condition of Haiti.

"Let us then be up and doing,
"With a heart for any fate;
"Still achieving, still pursuing,
"Learn to labour and to wait."—LONGFELLOW.

The present political condition of Haïti is essentially one of transition. The reign of barbarism and tyranny, which prevailed under the auspices of Faustin I., has happily been brought to a close, and that of progress has been fairly inaugurated by the genius of a man as remarkable for his patriotism, as for sound judgment, benevolence, and fixity of purpose. If Faustin I. bent all his energies to the reduction of Haïti to a state of barbarism,—if he sought to drive all intelligence out of the Haïtien borders, and to crush every man of worth, talent, and intellectual attainments,—the policy of President Geffrard is to restore and foster civilization, to encourage intellectual pursuits, to uphold men of worth and talent, wherever found among the natives of Haïti, and to seek men

from abroad possessed of such attainments as are wanting among his own people, but, nevertheless, requisite for the advancement of his country to a high and proud position in the scale of civilized nations. At last Haïti, which has hitherto lagged behind, has awakened to a sense of her real position, and throwing off the incubus, which has for so many years weighed heavily upon her, has seized with an eager grasp on the pervading spirit of the age, and having chosen one from among her sons, has laid upon him the onus of guiding her safely through the many difficulties which beset her onward and upward march.

The impression left upon my mind after my first interview with President Geffrard will not easily be forgotten. This interview took place on the morning of the fourth of December, 1860, in the Audience Chamber of the National Palace of Port-au-Prince, and in the presence of the Secretaries of State.

PRESIDENT GEFFRARD is a man of middle stature, but portly bearing; his complexion is dark bronze; his face is marked by those deeply furrowed lines, which are so highly characteristic of concentration of thought, care and anxiety, and which impart to his countenance an expression of sternness that is only relieved by a pleasant smile, which, ever and anon, like momentary flashes of light, flits across it; his glance is keen and penetrating, so that when he regards you steadily it would seem that he is endeavouring to discern the secret workings of your mind; his capacious and

highly intellectual head is silvered over, although he is apparently but little advanced beyond the meridian of life. When, however, we regard his countenance, care-worn and anxious, we are led to conclude that the silver hairs of the winter period of life have not fallen upon him because of age, but are rather the result of a mind that is being constantly exercised. In short, the whole appearance of this remarkable man is pleasing and interesting, such as impresses the observer with the notion, that the leading features of his character are fixity of purpose blended with benevolence. Such is President Geffrard, such the impressions left on my mind after a brief interview of something less than half an hour.

If we wanted proof of the truth of these impressions,—not the result of any lengthened experience of his character, but rather of a passing interview,—it would be only necessary to revert to the facts, that to his energy and decision of character the people of Haiti owe the overthrow of a bloody and barbarous tyranny, and the advent of an enlightened government, whilst to his benevolence they equally owe it, that all this has been effected without bloodshed. Thus far then, what may be termed, the crowning action of his life is in perfect keeping with the indications of his physiognomy.

It is Carlyle, I think, who says that “the kings of the present day are histrioes not heroes.” As the chief of a Government, President Geffrard, in a remote

sense, falls within the category of "kings," but we must be also careful to add, that he likewise falls within the category of "heroes," in this sense, that he has already effected, and is in the way of effecting more permanent good for the people of Haïti than any of his predecessors. It is one of the leading characteristics of a hero, that he becomes identified with all his acts; in other words, that the connexion between the man and his measures is so intimate, that the one cannot be disconnected from the other, so that the mention of the measure leads to a recollection of the man and *vice versa*. Thus the recollection of "*the bloodless revolution*" of the 22nd December, 1858, will always be associated with that of Fabre Geffrard. If there is one trait in this gentleman's character more striking, more prominent than another, it is his extreme horror of bloodshed. In consequence, in bringing about this event, he so laid his schemes, and in the execution of them, he shaped his course with so much prudence and foresight that the overthrow of the barbarous and bloody-tyrant Faustin L. was effected without one drop of blood being spilt, and he whose hand was reeking with human gore, who at that very moment was plotting other deeds of blood, was permitted to escape with his life as a prey. How noble, how generous, how truly heroic! he would not trample on a fallen foe! But in Geffrard the man and the measure are identified, we cannot separate them; the one is impressed with the character of the other. Already is this great achievement commemorated by further efforts on his

part to advance his people, and elevate the national character.

The next day after my arrival at Port-au-Prince, the first steam-boat ever possessed by the Haïtien Government entered the harbour of Port-au-Prince. For upwards of nine months previous the people of Haïti were eagerly expecting the realization of this, the first fruits of their striving after progress, but in vain, so that fears were being entertained that she was lost. On the morning of the 5th December, 1860, she steamed into port. A period was put to the anxiety entertained for her safety; hope was realized, and this happy event was celebrated by joy and rejoicing. In the evening there was a general illumination. The Place Geffrard, decorated with bannerets of the National Flag, was a scene of considerable animation. The crowd of persons congregated there were entertained by the band of the "*guard nationale*," whilst, ever and anon, they made the welkin ring with enthusiastic cries of, "*vive Geffrard*." On this, as on all similar occasions, the élite and beauty of Port-au-Prince were abroad to grace this national gathering, and to form a pleasing and prominent element in the crowd that was assembled there, to hail with joyous welcome the advent of a new era in the history of their country. This vessel is named "**THE GEFFRARD**." Her steam force is equal to forty horse, and she consumes four hundred and eighty pounds of coal in one hour, that is, equal to twelve pounds of coal to every horse-power. "*The Geffrard*"

is by no means a large vessel, but well constructed, and presents a most elegant appearance in the water. Another steam-boat, about double the size and steam-power of "*The Geffrard*," arrived about the latter end of the month of April, in this year (1861), and this is designated "*THE TWENTY-SECOND OF DECEMBER*." There is no mistaking the purport of these two names. The man and the measure are identified, and the one and the other can find no better monuments to commemorate them, than such as are in themselves instances of his purpose to move onwards and upwards, as well as his determination to seek the advancement of his fatherland.

But the name of Geffrard is destined to be remembered by other out-goings of his genius. The public drinking fountains, which we find scattered over Port-au-Prince, stand prominently forward as proofs of his great desire to employ every means within his power to elevate his country and nation ; and they are likewise so many manifestations of his benevolence, since they serve to exemplify his anxiety to bring within the reach of his people everything that can be deemed necessary to promote their happiness, and afford them comfort.

I must not omit to mention, among other things which stamp in a most striking manner the Geffrard Government as enlightened, as an administration, the policy of which is progress,—that the Government has taken steps towards boring an Artesian

well at Gonaïves. Whilst prosecuting the geological survey of the North and North-West of Haiti, M. Eugene Nau, in conjunction with myself, was instructed to survey Gonaïves with an especial view to this point. The result of that survey was unfavorable to the enterprise. We found the locality wanting in all the essential conditions. A report was made to the Government accordingly, and the undertaking declared impracticable. From what I learned subsequently, it would seem that the Government was under some pledge to the people of Gonaïves, in reference to water supply, and it was therefore necessary to make some efforts towards carrying out this pledge, in order to convince them that there was no want of good faith on the part of the Government. Notwithstanding, therefore, the very unfavorable report which we made, they resolved, at all risks, to carry into effect the original intention, and I was subsequently required to indicate a spot, within a short distance of the town, where the experiment might be made with some chance of success. This I did accordingly, still expressing my doubts as to the successful issue of the experiment. The gentleman who is to carry on the work, having arrived from Paris a short time prior to my return to this island, and all the necessary implements and appliances for the prosecution of the work being upon the spot, leave me no room to doubt but that active operations have been begun. This is quite an era in West Indian story. We have no instance on record where anything of the sort has

been attempted in any other of the West Indian group of islands. Some of my readers may be inclined to point to the Jamaica Railway in contravention of this assertion ; but then let it be remembered, that in point of general utility, next to nothing has been accomplished, and that as yet, our Railway and Telegraph are only abortive attempts in the paths of progress. But to return : whether the Artesian well proves a successful or unsuccessful enterprise, it establishes beyond a doubt this conclusion, that the Haïtien Republic has started fairly, and in many directions, in the paths of progress, and that there is a disposition to go forward against all opposition.

Haiti has also large mining resources, and among these none take up a more prominent and important position than its vast fields of *Lignite*. We will have occasion to direct the attention of the reader in a more especial manner to this subject in a subsequent chapter ; but it can scarcely be considered out of place to observe, that the *Lignite* of Haiti is equal to coal of the same nature to be found in other parts of the world, and, if vigorously worked, cannot fail to prove, ere long, a source of wealth, as well as a means of lifting that country to a high and important position politically and commercially. I am not aware that any measures are being taken to work these lignite deposits, but I saw it asserted in one of the local papers, that an Anglo-French company was in treaty with the Government for the developement of this resource, and that in connexion with it, it was contemplated to have a Rail-

way from Hinche to Gonaïves, this latter place being the nearest sea-port town, and the deposit at Hinche being the most extensive, as well as the best quality. So much has been accomplished, and so much is in contemplation for the future, and all this within the space of two short years.

One of the ulterior plans of the Geffrard administration, is to effect gradually a complete change of the form of Government,—from a military to a civil form. As a general rule, no nation has ever advanced in the paths of civilization and liberty under a military Government. Not only does it open a wide door for despotism on the part of the ruler, but, from the very nature of the case, a country so governed is always fruitful in revolutions. The tendency of a military Government is to curb a free expression of opinion, and to demand of all within its sway an unquestioning obedience. In such a case, there is no means of checking abuses on the part of the Government, but by an appeal to arms on the part of the governed. The evil consequences of this state of things manifest themselves by palpable retrogressions. Haïti has proved no exception to this general rule. The evil effects of military despotism, have again and again displayed themselves in that country. Frequent revolutions and bloodshed, have served only to drive the country back on to the confines of barbarism, and to leave its innumerable resources undeveloped. So justly may the people of

Haiti take up the lament of the Mantuan shepherd—

“ Good Heaven ! what dire effects from civil discord flow !

“ Now let me graff my pears and prune the vine ;

“ The fruit is theirs, the labour only mine.”

The means which Geffrard is employing for the purpose of effecting so important a change is remarkable and highly characteristic. He does not attempt to effect this change in the character of his Government by any sudden stroke of policy. He adopts a system, which, while it will gradually bring about the change that all the friends of Haiti long anxiously to see, will also tend to revive the agriculture of the country. Agriculture, under the mal-administration of Faustin I, was seriously neglected ; in fact, the very vitals of the country were sapped, in order to uphold a barbarous despotism. Under the present enlightened system, it is an object of anxious solicitude. The people without being bound by the compulsory labour code of Christophe are encouraged to pursue the tillage of the soil. For this purpose, lengthened paroles are granted to the soldiery in order that they might devote their time to agricultural pursuits in their own fields, or in those of the large plantations. These paroles will be lengthened from time to time, until finally a perfect immunity from military service is granted. On the same principle, those who emigrate from America for the purpose of settling among that people, and engaging in agriculture, are promised perfect immunity from military service, though their children in years to come may be called upon to bear arms. The tendency of

this, is clearly not only to break down the present bad system of Government, but at the same time to renew the taste of the people for agriculture. This, beyond a doubt, will lead to the abrogation of those obnoxious restrictive laws of which foreigners complain, and which, to this particular class of persons, are very oppressive. The abrogation of these laws, however, must be a work of time; any sudden change would most inevitably lead to very evil consequences, not only to those foreigners who are now in Port-au-Prince and other parts of Haïti, but even seriously to imperil the present administration. The necessity for removing these restrictive laws is felt, and acknowledged by the enlightened portion of the Haïtien people; but they tell you at the same time, that the masses of the people are not prepared for so momentous a change; that they would view such a procedure with suspicion, and that it would inevitably lead to a bloody revolutionary movement. Surely no one would be willing to see matters reduced to such an issue, when a patient endurance, if even of some little wrongs, will in time lead to different and better results. From the foregoing sketch, imperfect though it be, it will be seen that the present is an earnest of a brighter future for Haïti, and it behoves all who are interested in the great question of Negro emancipation to help her forward, by every means in their power, in her march towards progress and civilization.

CHAPTER II.

The Commerce of Haiti.

"None idle here. Look where thou wilt, they all

"Are active, all engaged in meet pursuit;

"Not happy else."—POLLOCK.

Next in importance, in a social point of view, to the political condition of a people, is that of their commercial relations. From these we are able to form a very good estimate of the nature and extent of a people's industry on the one hand, and on the other we are supplied with a pretty reliable index of the nature and extent of their wants. We gather the data by means of which we attain to the one, and are furnished with the other, from the quality and quantity of their exports and imports. We also learn to what extent they are self-reliant, or dependent on foreign supplies, and how far other nations are dependent on them for things that neither their soil nor climate can supply them with.

A state of isolation is not consistent with a state of civilization. As a general rule, the more rapid the

strides which any nation is making towards civilization, the more prosperous, the more wealthy a people become, so much the greater are their commercial relations. The converse position holds equally good.

The past history of Haïti would not lead us to expect much from its industry. Accordingly, when we examine its exports, we find that the articles of trade are not such as require continuous labour. The manufacture of Sugar and Indigo has ceased; the cultivation of Cotton has hitherto been altogether neglected; and even the Coffee, at this moment the largest article of export, is the fruit of past industrial efforts. The plain of the North, once noted for Sugar manufacture, has ceased to supply the export trade of Haïti with this article. Along the road from Mazares, the plantation of M. Alphonse Elie, we observe the ruins of what must have been in their day splendid Sugar plantations. Small portions of these are still partially and imperfectly cultivated, but the yield is of such quality, and in such quantity as to be altogether unadapted to export purposes. In the place of granulated Sugar and good Rum, we find an inferior syrup, and a very inferior spirit known as *Tafia*. The *Tafia* of Cayes is however of a superior quality, and approaches in flavor to Jamaica Rum. The *Tafia* is for the most part, consumed in Haïti. A very small quantity of that manufactured at Cayes and Anse-à-Veau is exported. We have in this state of things decided indications of retrogression, and cannot doubt, but that, if they were

but suffered to continue for a few years longer, the result would be a rapid return to a state of barbarism.

The existing administration are alive to this deplorable state of things, and they are doing their utmost to effect such reforms as will, in the course of a few years, lead to the restoration of the manufacture of granulated Sugar, as well as that of Indigo. It is pleasing to find that, within the last two years, Cotton has been added to the articles of export. The quantity of this article exported from Haïti in the year 1860, was equal to 166,514 lbs. The quantity of Cotton in the market up to the month of January of this year, was equal to 62,543 lbs. During this same month, 25,858 lbs of this commodity were exported, of which 22,284 lbs were thrown into the New York market, 2,974 into that of Glasgow, and 600 into that of Marseille. It is estimated that the Cotton crop of this year will be equal to 200,000 lbs. From measures which have been taken by the Government, and to which allusion will be made in another chapter, we will, at no distant day, find enumerated among articles of export from Haïti, granulated Sugar, and, it may be, a fair proportion of spirits, approximating, if not equal in quality, to that manufactured in Jamaica, and the other West India islands. When we consider what the people of Haïti have already effected in the way of resuscitating Cotton cultivation, we have, I think, before us, sufficient reason to warrant the conjecture just now advanced.

Those of our readers who may be anxious to know what is the nature of the export trade of Haïti, will perhaps find the following statement of articles exported during the year 1860, interesting :—

Coffee	22,059,499	Lbs.
Logwood	16,368,050	
Cotton	166,514	
Cocoa	732,055	
Aloes	18,874	
Fustic	26,250	
Lignum vitæ	1,750	
Brazil Wood	1,550	
Rags	17,750	
Yellow Wax	7,007	
Tortoise shell	718	
Gum	600	
Mahogany	162,665	Feet.
Cow Hides.. ..	293	Hides.
Goat Skins	994	Skins.
Honey	16,532	Gals.
Ginger	1,010	Lbs.
Orange Rind	720	Lbs.*

I content myself with this statement, because my purpose is not to deal with the past, whatever that may be, but with the present condition of Haïti. It will rest with those who feel themselves sufficiently interested in Haïtien commerce, to watch for further statistics, or even to compare the present with the past, in order to ascertain whether there has been any progress in a commercial point of view, or not.

* L'Opinion Nationale, 23rd Feby., 1861.

The import trade of Haïti is carried on principally from North America, France, England, and Hamburg. The articles imported from America are principally *provisions*, such as flour, rice, pork, &c.; from France, *wines*; from England, what are usually included under the head of *dry goods*; and from Hamburg, *sausages*, *cheese*, and some other articles of German manufacture. The largest import trade of Haïti, is carried on with America. It will thus be seen, that the people of Haïti, like ourselves, are in a comparative state of dependence on America for the necessaries of life. I have heard it asserted, that the Haitien trade with North America, is much greater than that of Jamaica. Certainly, to judge from the number of American vessels which throng the ports of Haïti, as well as their frequent arrivals, I would be inclined to say that such is the case. This, however, is only a conjecture, because I have no comparative statistics which would enable me to arrive at a positive conclusion on this head.

The revenue is derived principally from import and export duties. These are said to be very high. The Custom House returns of 1860, give the following results :—

Importation	..	..	676,458 .73	Pastr.
Exportation	..	..	386,041 .30	
Pastr.....				1,062,500 .03

From this it will be seen that the imports are nearly double those of the exports. If then we accept the

rule, laid down by Alison, as correct, that exports are a test of a people's industry, whilst imports are a test of their wealth, we would certainly argue that the people of Haïti are wealthy. But I fear that, we must accept this canon within certain limits, in so far as it applies to Haïti, and rather infer a dire necessity, arising out of past events, than wealth, as the cause of the comparatively large imports.

CHAPTER III.

The Towns and Villages of Haiti.

" J'ai toujours aimé à connaître le foyer, les circonstances domestiques de ceux avec qui j'ai dû avoir affaire dans ce monde. C'est une partie d'eux-mêmes ; c'est une seconde physionomie extérieure qui donne la clé de leur caractère et de leur destinée."—LAMARTINE.

"What, moreover, is a ship, a railway, a light house, or a palace,—what, indeed, is a whole city, a whole continent of cities, all the cities of the globe, nay, the very globe itself, in so far as man has changed it, but the work of that giant hand, with which the human race, acting as one mighty man, has executed its will!"—GEORGE WILSON.

Beyond a doubt, the character and destiny of a nation, is as fully expressed by the towns and villages in which they dwell, as the character of a man is more or less declared by the configuration and expression of his countenance. Whilst savages are content to dwell in rude tents, man, brought fully under the influences of civilization, erects stately palaces, and magnificent mansions. There are, however, degrees of civilization.

These, too, are fully expressed according to the extent of utility and ornament which we find about the buildings, public or private, that occur in the towns and cities inhabited by any nation. When men have attained fully the useful, they seek out the ornamental, but not till then. If, therefore, we enter for the first time a town or city, we can form a pretty fair estimate of the lives and social condition of its inhabitants, by simply observing the character of the houses which they inhabit, and, as a general rule, we will seldom find that estimate at fault when we enter the domestic circle.

I will now invite my readers to follow me while I take a cursory glance of those towns and villages which I visited during my brief sojourn in Haiti.

I—PORT-AU-PRINCE, known also as the *Port of the Republic*, and once designated, *the Port of Crimes*. The appearance of this town is by no means imposing. The buildings are irregular, and more or less in a state of delapidation. The best constructed houses are to be found between the commercial part of the city,—that is, about the sea shore (*Bord de la mer*), and the principal street (*Grande Rue*.) Notwithstanding the almost general delapidation, we find the veriest barn commanding an almost fabulous rental. A stranger feels naturally astonished at this; but this astonishment is considerably increased when he learns what numbers of every age and sex are huddled toge-

ther in one house. I will venture to assert that there is not a house of any size or condition that is not filled with men, women, and children. People live in small communities, and the usual moral and social evils follow as a matter of course. Even to the most superficial observer this becomes patent. Considering the number of inhabitants in Port-au-Prince, and the nature of the accommodations, the limits of the town might, I think, be extended with advantage to society at large.

The national palace at Port-au-Prince is a single storied building; we detect nothing like a display of either ornament or architectural skill about it. The interior, although without ornament, is very tastefully fitted. We find an equal want of architectural skill about the church, the Court House, the bureaux of the Secretaries of State, and the other public buildings.

We are astonished to find that there are no wharves. Vessels discharge their cargoes on the sea-shore almost immediately in front of the Custom House; and as there are no bonding warehouses, gentlemen to whom cargoes are consigned find it necessary to have their goods transferred to their stores with the least possible delay, or if this cannot be conveniently effected, to find a soldier to keep watch over such goods, as must remain in the open shed adjacent to the Custom House.

Some of the streets of Port-au-Prince are paved with

large and irregular masses of limestone, for the most part rounded nodules, obtained from the adjacent hills. Immediately in front of the palace, is the *place du Petion*, on which is the tomb of Petion and beside it, the Haïtien tree of liberty—a Mountain Cabbage—(*Areca oleracea*,) waving its “verdant tuft of feathery fronds” gracefully in the air,—a perfect emblem of liberty and independence.

On the South of the town is the *Morne de l'Hopital* on which stands fort Jacques, a fort now pointed at as having been constructed by the English; on the North is the plain of *Cul de Sac* in advance of which, rather to the South-West, is fort Alexandre; to the East there are some marl mounds, and on the West is the sea.

Passing over the plain of the *Cul de Sac*, with its grass covered road, environed with the Acacia Tree, we proceed by the way of the Grand Saline to l' Arca-haye. On our way to this place, we find gushing out from a marl mound, almost contiguous to the sea shore, the *Source puant* or striking spring. This is a sulphur spring, and is named *Source puant* from the unpleasant odour which arises from it, in consequence of the constant exhalation of *Sulphureted hydrogen gas*. In the bottom of the stream, and where the spring gushes out of the mound, I observed a greyish encrustation very friable and highly charged with sulphur. Floating in the water were greenish bladder-like masses of *conservæ*. I examined the temperature of the water,

but found that it did not exceed that of the atmosphere. Between this spring, until you arrive at a small negro settlement, known as *Oais Prince*, there is no trace of human habitation. After leaving *Oais Prince*, we reach *La Chapelle*, apparently the wreck of a sugar plantation, and which keeps up a semblance of its former character in the works and the negro village hard by. There were evident signs that a few days previous, the manufacture of "*sirop*" and "*tafia*," had been actively engaged in. From this point our road lay for a short distance along the bed, of what in this country is strangely enough designated, "a dry river." Having quitted this rugged path-way, we emerge into a tolerably even road, on either side of which were luxuriant gardens of plantain trees. We journey along this road for some miles, and then striking off to the left, we enter upon that which leads directly to the village of *L'Arcahaye*. We arrive at this village just at that hour of evening when the light of day and the darkness of night are struggling for supremacy; it is neither day-light nor twi-light, but what a scotchman would term, "*gloamin*." We enter at once upon an open area or space, on the one side of which stands a neatly constructed Church, with its East gable rounded off, thus imparting to it the appearance of a ship. The style of architecture, although not strictly gothic, approaches nearer to that than any other style. Standing off from the Church, apparently in the form of a crescent, are the neatly constructed cottages of the dwellers in this sea-side village. These cottages are well constructed, the

greater portion of them being covered with shingles, with here and there a thatched roof—adding rather to the beauty of the village than otherwise. I passed the night in the house of General Moes, by whom I was received, and very hospitably entertained. Early next morning I was astir, and by four o'clock fairly started, bidding adieu to l'Arcahaye with its pleasant associations of an evening. Long before sun-rise, I was far advanced on my journey, and at the hour of eleven, I entered the arrondissement, or district of Saint Marc. The arrondissement of Saint Marc is separated from that of l'Arcahaye by a narrow stream, named the river of Morne, or Mount Rouis. Except the mountain scenery, we observe nothing of any peculiar interest on this road, and, as we are travelling under a vertical sun, with the thermometer standing at 95° in the open air, and 90° in the shade, we will hasten on.

II.—SAINT MARC.—It is now five o'clock. The setting sun is shining brightly, and casting its slanting rays across the water, which, as they fall on the whitened tombs and vaults of the cemetery, are thrown so vividly back, as to render any attempt to look upon these monuments positively painful. This cemetery is situated without the walls of the town, in almost immediate proximity to the "*portail*," and at a short distance from the beach, so that, as you enter the town, you have the cemetery on the one hand, and the sea on the other. Thus the dead are buried, away out of the sight of the living, on the sea shore, and as the

waves dash in regular and monotonous cadence on the loose shingle their low hollow moans fall on the ears of the traveller as a solemn dirge, chanted continuously by the wide waste of waters for those who sleep hard by. It is not well, like the demoniac of old, to be a dweller among the tombs, but it is wise to pause for a moment, and contemplate such a scene as this. We are now within the town. As I have already hinted it is walled, and surrounded by a deep ditch. We observe that the character of the buildings in this town is much like those of Port-au-Prince, but the delapidations, except such as are the remains from a fire that laid nearly the whole town in ruins, are fewer. There is, however, the same irregularity, and a complete absence of any attempts at architecture. The idea, apparently uppermost in the minds of the builders, was essentially utilitarian. There is an utter absence of anything like ornament. The town is environed by low hills, which stretch into the sea as headlands, thus forming a very secure bay and harbour for vessels. This port, as a naval position, would be one of great importance. Faustin I, who appeared to have been keenly alive to anything like carnage and bloodshed, was fully sensible of this, and as such, St. Marc was constituted by him a closed port. Geffardequally alive to its commercial importance, when taken in connexion with the cotton-growing plain of the Artibonite, has since thrown it open, and the harbour of St. Marc, like those of Gonaïves and Port-au-Prince, is now being resorted to by trading vessels.

Wearied with the continuous travel of the two previous days, I found it necessary to take some repose. Accordingly, I remained about two days at St. Marc, where I received marked attention from one who proved to have been a countryman and town's man, or as the good people of Haïti would say, "*un compatriote*," I mean Mr. Alison. Accompanied by this gentleman, I visited the "Gros Morne" of St. Marc, about three miles out of town. In the language of Haïti, this name signifies high mountain. Let the reader imagine then what must have been my astonishment, when having arrived at the summit of what appeared to be, and in reality was, only a limestone mound, my companion informed me that we were standing on the heights of "Gros Morne" of St. Marc. Evidently the name is not in keeping with the character of the locality, and we can only indulge in the conjecture, that it was so named by an incorrigible wag, or it may be, that it was regarded as the highest point in the series of hillocks which surround St. Marc. The latter is perhaps the true reason. Looking immediately before us, we see all the plain of the Artibonite, stretching far and wide. A level plain, with not a mound or hillock on its surface, reposing at the foot of the mountains of Dessaline, enrobed by distance in light "azure hue."—

" 'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,
" And robes the mountains in their azure hue."

At the foot of the "Gros Morne," the road strikes off into two opposite directions, either of which will take

the traveller to Gonaïves, one leading directly to Gonaïves, along that part of the plain where the American emigrants are being located, and the other to *Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite*. We take the latter, and for a considerable distance, traverse a road along which there is no trace of human habitation, until we arrive at the banks of the Artibonite. Having crossed this stream, in what the people of Haiti term a "canot," or, canoe, but what in reality is a floating bridge, we enter upon a road which traverses a plain covered with cotton fields. We were led to anticipate this from many bales of Cotton which we observed on the opposite bank of the river, waiting to be crossed over, in order that they might be conveyed to St. Marc, for exportation. Within a very short distance of this village, these cotton fields were replaced by extensive gardens of sweet potatoes, and plantain trees. On this side of the river, the road is fine and level.—A short, but sharp canter, and we find ourselves entering a village of thatched huts. There is little in this place to interest one who is anxious to find marks of progress, wherever he visits. Still, *Petite Riviere* is not without its objects of interest; at the head of the village, on the summit of the hillock over against us is the celebrated *Crête à Pierrot*, with its fort, which Dessaline, with a handful of negro troops, held against the élite of the French army. This place is as terrible to the memory of a Frenchman, as Waterloo, or Algiers. From this point, we command a view of the plain through which the Artibonite rolls, its dark

deep waters, spreading fertility around it. It is, however, painful to think how little of this country,—from its soil and climate, so well adapted to cotton cultivation—has been redeemed from its native wilds. Here and there, we can see small spots subdued by man, but the greater portion is still grown over by the *Acacia*, the *Logwood*, and the rank undergrowths, common to such localities. Like the pre-adamite Eden, the land is fertile, but there is no man to till the soil,—none to dress the garden, and to keep it.—Leaving *Petite Riviere*, we cross the *Ester*, *en route* to the city, which Dessaline attempted to build, intending to make it, at once a stronghold and the seat of government. This village, for at present it is nothing more, is named after its founder. It is remarkable for its forts and fortifications bristling from every strategic point that the locality offers. I counted not fewer than six of these, named respectively—*Desida*, *Resolu*, *Innocent*, *Docean*, *Culbute*, and, *Fin du Monde*. Dessaline is said to have constructed these forts in anticipation of some further attacks from the French, and it is supposed that he attempted the building of this fortified town especially with an eye to these. We wonder at the engineering skill displayed in the position of the several forts, as well as the perfect command which each fort has over every approach. Indeed, if these forts were only to be repaired and supplied with all the appliances of modern warfare, Haïti would have at her command a stronghold, in the

event of a foreign invasion, that would be almost impregnable.

III.—GONAÏVES.—If the town of Gonaïves is like St. Marc and Port au Prince in the total absence of buildings having any pretensions to architectural elegance, it is unlike them in this, that there are fewer dilapidated buildings. Nevertheless, it has much in common with them, in the irregular aspect which the whole town presents. The town of Gonaïves is built in a remarkably barren locality, one in which we find the desert character very strongly marked. Indeed, the town appears to stand on a very imperfectly reclaimed lagoon. It is bounded on either hand, by large marshy plains, liable to periodical inundations from the sea. This low position of the land near the sea shore is taken advantage of, for the manufacture of salt. The water from the sea is admitted by broad trenches cut in the sand, which terminate in deep oblong troughs, also cut in the sand. When these are filled the trenches are blocked up, and the sea water, thus collected, is suffered to evaporate slowly, by which means well defined crystals of salt are deposited. The salt is fine and white, and large quantities of it are manufactured in this way. Is it not remarkable, and another instance of the extreme apathy of the people of Jamaica, that notwithstanding they possess facilities quite as great in this respect, as any which Haïti can, and does offer, and that the enterprise requires little labor or capital, and on the

whole is profitable, that no one adventures in it! The neglect of this department of industry, in Jamaica, contrasts very unfavorably with its prosecution in Haïti!

At the further end of the strip of land on which these salt ponds are, and to the extreme west of the town of Gonaïves, is the house,—at present uninhabited,—at which General Geffrard effected his debarkation, prior to his raising the standard of Haïtien liberty anew, and, which has eventuated in the restoration of the Republic. It is a low brick building, and, judging from external appearances, we would infer that it is commodious. Owing to the constant action of the salt spray on the ferruginous matter of the bricks, they are fast crumbling away. Even in the town of Gonaïves, brick buildings suffer in this manner, for which reason there are very few brick buildings, the greater portion of the houses being built of boards.

Pending the preparations for our departure to *Gros Morne*, from Gonaïves, in company with M. Eugene Nau, I visited the habitation of M. St. Aud—*Rever. dure*. We found M. St. Aud making steady efforts to restore the cultivation of Cotton. The article cultivated principally by him, is the Guinea Corn. In the same neighbourhood I had an opportunity afforded me to examine the ruins of what, in their day, must have been, splendid indigo works. The vats, &c., are in a pretty perfect state of preservation, and, with a comparatively trifling outlay, might be even now ren-

dered quite efficient. But more of this in another place.

Horses and other necessities for the overland tour having been duly provided, we took our departure from Gonaïves, on the morning of the 24th December, for Gros Morne. "Petit-frere," or little-brother, mounted on the pack horse, like an Arab on his camel, led the van, M. Nau, Mr. Lewis Johnson and myself, bringing up the rear. The air was cool and balmy, and travelling as briskly as possible—that is at such a pace as would enable the guide, who was on foot, to keep up with us—we were, long before sunrise, a few miles away from the pleasant society and hospitable roof of General Deborde. We arrived at Gros Morne, a village of thatched huts, mud wall cottages, and shanties at mid-day, where we received a hearty welcome from the Commandant, General Pierre Charles.

We crossed the river *Mansel* the next morning, for an early promenade. We ascended one of the steep limestone mounds which rise above the banks of the river, in the hope of enjoying the surrounding prospect; but the number of high trees growing in this place shut out the view entirely. In returning, a man on the opposite bank of the river startled a *Green-Snake*, which, it would seem, was basking in the rays of the rising sun. It struck into the stream immediately, and swam rapidly across. It arrived at the bank where we were standing, apparently exhausted by its natatorial efforts, and we thus succeeded in capturing it easily, by laying a

stone gently on the central portion of its body, and then passing a noose around the neck. The colour of this reptile, when alive, is a bright green, which it unfortunately loses after death. It is supposed to be complementary of the Black snake in Jamiaca, which does not exist in Haïti, and which it rather resembles, in all other respects, except in colour. It was rather amusing to mark the astonishment which the good people of the village exhibited at the interest I took in the animal, and their anxiety to know the use that I intended to make of it.

We passed Christmas Day at Gros Morne. On the morning of the 26th December, we set out for *le Borgne*. For the first few miles, we travelled along the winding and rugged banks of the Mansel, crossing and re-crossing the stream several times. After quitting the banks of the river, we begin a gentle ascent of the rising ground, which forms a part of the base of the *Morne Bonpere*. Henceforth, we pursue our path along the narrow defiles of the mountain, winding our course, cork-screw like, along its sides, now ascending, then descending, with a yawning precipice on our lee quarter.

After pursuing our weary way, for upwards of twelve leagues, we arrived at the lodge of Jean François Noel, between the hours of two and three, in the afternoon. This lodge is situated in a narrow gorge, between two pyramidal eminences of the mountain. Here we determined to pass the night, partly

on account of the threatening aspect of the weather, and partly because we judged it imprudent and inexpedient to risk being benighted in a journey, over what we had just cause for thinking would most likely prove all but impracticable, if not dangerous roads. As the day declined, the temperature was sensibly reduced, and long before night closed in, we found it necessary to have a fire, both within the lodge, and in the open air. We passed the evening around the cheerful fire, partly in pleasing gossip, and partly in watching the tongues of flame driving now in this direction, and then in that, as the keen blast sent them roaring among the faggots. Quickly the night closes in, the mists and fogs gather in the valleys beneath and the air grows colder. It is the time of full moon. The moon gradually appeared above the highest point of the eastern peak of the mountain, and, at one time, seemed to rest on its very summit. The scene was very imposing, and its effect was such as to induce my friend and fellow-traveller M. Nau to compare it to "a young girl, with a brilliant on her brow." Hill and valley were soon bathed in radiance, and the highly transparent condition of the mountain air imparted a peculiar brilliancy to the light of the satellite. The scene was indeed sublime. It was such as to inspire the beholder with sentiments of awe and admiration of Him, who has given a law to the sun and appointed an everlasting ordinance to the moon. This scene of light and beauty did not continue long however, for as the night advanced, the heavens became

over-cast, so that neither the light of moon nor star was to be seen. The winds moaned, and for a time we thought it bid fair for rain. We therefore betook ourselves to the shelter of the lodge, and passed the remainder of the night as best we could.

We were up at an early hour next morning. Whilst "Petit-frere" was employed in preparing the horses for the journey, we engaged ourselves in observing the mists and fogs rolling along the valleys beneath, and over the brow of the mountains. The effect might have been compared to the drawing aside of a scene or curtain. I could not help recalling the comparison which the prophet instituted, it may be, between such a scenery as this, and the evanescent righteousness of the mere mouth-religionist—"like the early dew and morning cloud which passeth away." The summit of the Eastern peak, which on the previous evening appeared as a young girl decked with a brilliant, now covered with a white fog, seemed a picture of hoary age. Whilst we were engaged in contemplating the beauty of the surrounding scenery, we were at once charmed and surprised with the notes of that remarkable bird, the *Musician*, or as the French term it *l'Organist*. It seemed to have been a pair of these interesting birds chanting alternately their matins, and, like one of old, anticipating the rising sun with songs of praise to the Creator. Their notes, clear and full, had the richness of a well-tuned organ. The *Musician* is said to have five notes about the months of April and May, at which time it is heard to the greatest advantage. On this oc-

casian, it had but three, the first firm, full and rich, the second, though firm, was rather shrill, and the third, whilst retaining all the shrillness of the second, was gradually modulated into a tremor, so that the note, long after it had ceased, seemed to linger on the ear. Well might the Psalmist have exclaimed,—when contemplating Deity as manifested in His works,—“How manifold are thy works; in mercy hast thou made them all.” This bird is very shy and is seldom seen; when accidentally seen it avoids the gaze of the spectator by going around the branch of the tree on which it might happen to be perched, changing its position with every corresponding change of that of the spectator’s.*

* This bird has been classed by some of the older naturalists amongst the *Thrushes* which it resembles very much in every respect, except the beak. The Hon. Richard Hill thinks that, from the character of the beak, it falls within the family *Ampe- lidæ*. Dallas, however, classes it among the *Fringillidæ* or *Finches*. Third sub-family *Tanaginæ* or *Tanagers*. “The typical species of this genus,” says Dallas, “the *Euphonia Musica*” or *Organist Tanager* is a native of the West Indies; it is about “four inches in length, and the plumage of the male is beautifully varied with black and orange.” (See *Orr’s Circle of the Sciences, Organic nature, Vol. III, p. 269.*) The bird which the Hon. Richard Hill saw during his tour through Haïti is of a light slate colour, with two white bars on the wings, the primaries white, and also the caudal feathers, the gorge red, breast white, and rump rufous. “Its song,” says Mr. Hill, “was composed of about five notes, but so finely modulated and combined, and so much like the music of a small pandean pipe, that although I had been prepared by previous information for the wild melody of this little minstrel of the mountains, its sudden sweetness came upon me with a sense of strange and unspeakable admiration. A hundred of them in the grove about us were pouring forth their matin song; many appeared to preserve a sort of harmony together; and the wild music, as it rose and fell, was repeated with scarcely any intermission

The Tree fern, the slender Prickle-pole palm, (*Cocos guineensis*) ; the Trumpet tree (*Cecropia peltata*), and some varieties of Heliconia, formed the most prominent and striking features of the vegetation of this mountain. We resumed our journey at sun rise, bidding farewell to our kind host of the mountains,—Jean François Noel.

IV. LE BORGNE.—The village of le Borgne is composed of cottages of a more advanced type than those of Gros Morne, which are little more than a series of thatched huts and shanties. We find in the general plan of this village the same degree of irregularity in the laying out as we have noticed about the towns and villages which we have already visited. Judging from the ruins, which we trace more or less throughout the whole village, le Borgne, prior to the earthquake of 1842, must have been a place of more considerable importance than it is at present.

North of the village, rising in the form of a bold headland, is a low hill which is designated the Peninsula. On the extreme point of this headland, is situated Fort Maniore, at present in a ruined condition. We found but one mounted cannon, which, from its position, is capable of commanding the whole coast for

“ till the sun was fairly upon the heavens, when the multitude
“ of voices ceased, the chant of that constant melody, so much
“ like an artificial song, was continued only by one or two birds
“ in the more lonely and sequestered recesses of the forest.”—
(*The Anti-Slavery Reporter*, April 2nd, 1831,—Vol. iv., No. 7,
p. 222.)

a considerable distance round. It measured, without the breech, 15 feet in length; the mouth is 1 foot internal diameter, and it is marked W. 24, P. 5345. At the side of the cannon, is the tomb of Jn. Bpt. Irnand, inspector of wares, who died in the year 1842. The village of le Borgne is built on either bank of the Ester, it is divided into two distinct portions that are connected together by a wooden bridge.

From Fort Maniore, we command a very interesting view of the whole coast, fringed with white foam and bounded by water of that peculiar green, known as sea-green. In the Homeric period, the sea was regarded as the emblem of the Infinite,[†] both in time and space. We can scarcely wonder at this. It is impossible to contemplate the sea stretching far and wide, without the mind being overpowered with a sense of boundlessness, and without putting out our utmost efforts to conjure up every sentiment of the vast and infinite. Yet, when we mark the girdle of sand against which the white foam dashes incessantly; when we listen to them rebelling against the base of the cliff on which we are standing, and contemplate the expanse of water stretched out from headland to headland, we feel, that whatever of vastness impresses itself on the mind, when viewing such a scene as this, it is not that of boundless space, or infinite duration, but of long extended periods of time, such as those with which geological science is conversant,—periods in which the sea, as a formative

[†] Homer's *Iliad*, Bk. i.

and transforming agent, has played an important part, —periods clearly distinguished and defined by unmistakable boundary lines, but nevertheless, shaded off the one into the other by imperceptible gradations. We listen to the moan of the waves, and we wonder what they can be saying, and then we are led to reflect on the interpretation which palaeontologists have given of the records of the stone-book, and how, by means of fossils contained in the rocks, they have found that where mountain masses now lift their towering peaks, breakers once raved and roared—that here and there a river more vast than the “Father of Waters,” or the wide-spreading Orinoco emptied its mighty freshets into the sea; and we are at last led on to the conclusion, that whatever of voice or sound may be in these waves, they now, as in the by-gone eternity, are but instruments of the Divine will, and that even now they do not surge and moan in vain, but speak in a voice mighty and loud,

“This world is a prophecy of worlds to come.”

The sea-view from Fort Mamoire beggars all description, so vast, so sublime, it would need a language not of earth, though understood by all, to picture or describe it.

V. PORT MARGO.—The village of Port Margo is very picturesque. Along its whole extent is a very broad street, a grassy sward, in the centre of which is the tree of liberty, and what is termed the national altar. At the extreme end of this “broadway”—for so to com-

pare small things with great we will designate it—the government house stands, a building certainly of no great pretensions, but nevertheless, the largest in Port Margo. Somewhat in advance of this, and to the left, is the unfinished Church of St. Margaret. The present building is intended as a restoration of that which shared the common fate in the Earthquake of 1842. We entered this unfinished temple, but observed nothing of that pomp, nothing of that strong appeal to the imagination, through sensuous impressions for which the Romanist communion is so remarkable. The altar piece formed an exception to the whole, it was a beautiful painting of the Virgin. Flanking “the Broadway” were very neat and regularly built cottages, mud-walled and thatched, but certainly far in advance of anything of the same sort that, up to this moment, had fallen under our notice.

Except in the immediate vicinity of le Borgne, the road to Port Margo lays along a grassy plain environed with gardens of Coffee, Cocoa, and the Plantain.

The Plantain throughout Haïti is cultivated on what is termed the close planting principle. I observed that the suckers were small, and that the fruit which they produced was equally diminutive, notwithstanding the favorable character of soil and climate. We may observe by the way, that it is a remarkable fact that the inhabitants of Haïti utilize the fibre of the penguin, but apply the fibre of the plantain to no useful purpose. They manufacture nearly all the ropes

used in the country from the fibre of the penguin. The reason which they assign for this preference is, that the fibre of the plantain is too brittle, and, in consequence, the ropes and cordage prepared from it are not strong.

Let us quit for a few moments the habitation of the living, to visit the tenements of the dead. Here is the tomb of a physician, a person evidently of some consequence among the villagers of his day, as is evident from the character of the tomb which they have raised to perpetuate his memory; but the overturned urns and vases, as well as the fact that the cracked walls of the tomb remain unrepaired, render it equally certain that he is unknown to the present dwellers at Port Margo. The man, who in the immediate vicinity of this tomb is opening a new grave, knows not who he is, or what is his fame or family. He is forgotten, or but partially remembered, in common with the generation of his day. But here is a humble grave, marked by a simple cross, attached to which is a painted tin plate, recording a brief story pregnant with historical events. We transcribe it.

CI—GIT

Marie Thérèse Dme. André

ag. de 100 ans. dcd. le 27 Janvier,

1855.

This is the simple epitaph of one who was advanced in years when the people of Haïti took up arms against their oppressors, and successfully asserted their liberty and independence. Were she alive, and if reason held firm her throne in that aged brain, how much of the past might she not relate of Petion, Toussiant l'Overture, Dessaline, Christophe, Boyer, and Solouque, and all the worthies of Haïtien story. Vividly she would doubtless depict the fierce and stubborn contest of the Crete à Perriot—she would tell of the bloody deeds of Dessaline, the oppressive sway of Christophe, and the lax demoralising reign of Boyer. She has lived through many bloody scenes and deadly struggles, but her life closes only too soon to witness the overthrow of a barbarous, bloody tyrant, and the advent of the enlightened reign of him who seeks the regeneration of his fatherland, and the advancement of his people.

I turn to the pages of my note-book to record this simple tablet, and my eyes fall on a brief note that carries me far back into the history of the past. It is the notice of an image of the Zemy, found on the road from le Borgne to Port Margo, carved in red clay slate, with its wide mouth, broad flat nose, and obliquely set eyes. Man was made in the image of God, and when he would make a symbolical representation of Deity, he, for the most part, "makes it after the likeness and similitude of a man." So the Carib carves his Zemy according to the salient points in his own facial configuration. Whilst at Mazares, the habitation of M. Alphonse Elie, that gentleman shewed me ano-

ther specimen of the image of the Zemy. In this specimen, the human head and face were more perfectly represented than in the preceding. The forehead is represented as low and receding, face flat, with broad flat nose, wide mouth, receding chin, and hideously large ears; the whole head has the appearance of having been flattened, so that it is wider in its parietal, or side-to-side, than in its occipito-frontal, or fore-and-aft diameter. The orbits are also represented as oblique. Upon comparing this rude specimen of sculpture with the skulls of the aborigines of Jamaica, discovered sometime ago in the Pedro caves of Saint Elizabeth's, we observe the same compressed head, low receding forehead, flat face, high cheek bones, receding chin, oblique orbits, and a greater parietal than occipito-frontal diameter. Beyond a question this image, and the skulls from the Pedro plains of Saint Elizabeth present most strikingly the Mongolian character. The points of identity between these skulls, and the image of the Zemy, seem to point to the conclusion, that the facial configuration of the aborigines of Haïti was identical with that of those of Jamaica. It is to be regretted that Washington Irving has given no description of the aborigines of Haïti, approaching even to the meagre details respecting the aborigines of the island of San Salvador, with which he has supplied us. He says "Their complexion was of a tawny or copper hue, and they were entirely destitute of beards. Their hair was not crisp like the recently discovered tribes of the African coast under the same latitude, but straight and coarse, partly cut short above

the ears, but some locks were left long behind, and falling upon their shoulders ; their features though obscured and disfigured by paint, were agreeable. They had lofty foreheads and fine eyes.”* This is of itself sufficient to show, that between the Caribs of Haïti and Jamaica, and those of San Salvador there existed a wide difference in facial configuration. The latter appear to resemble more the Caribs of the Lower Orinoco and Peritu as described by Humboldt. He says “all the men of this race whom we saw, either during our voyage on the Lower Orinoco, or in the missions of Peritu, differ from the Indians, not only in the tallness of their stature, but also in the irregularity of their features. Their noses are smaller, and less flattened, the cheek bones are not so high, and their physiognomy has less of the Mongol character.” Further on, when speaking of the men of Parima and French Guiana, he observes that, “they have foreheads rounder than those of the Chaymas, the Otomacs, the Macos, the Maravitans, and most of the inhabitants of the Orinoco. A systematizer would say, that the form is such as their intellectual faculties require. We were so much the more struck by this fact, as some of the skulls of the Caribs engraved in Europe, for works of Anatomy, are distinguished from all other human skulls by the extremely depressed forehead and facial angle.”†

To return. Stone hatchets, broken pottery, and re-

* *Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus* by Washington Irving.

† *Humboldt's Travels*, vol. iii.

lics such as those as we have been considering, are all that remain as sad mementoes of a people extirpated by the cupidity of those whose legitimate mission amongst them was rather to have taught them the arts of civilized life. The stone period had drawn to a close with the unfortunate Caribs, the age of bronze and steel had dawned upon them, they simply witnessed its advent, and then died ont. Specimens of their rude pottery and sculpture are all that remain to attest their existence, and to raise a voice of warning to those who now hold the soil which once they held. The people of Haïti, so anxious for the discovery of a gold field, would do well to learn a lesson from the fate of these Caribs. The finding of a little gold, tempted the Spaniards to extirpate them, and it is more than certain, that the discovery of gold in any part of the Republic of Haïti would have the effect of destroying entirely the nationality, and ultimately the independence of the Haïtiens.*

VI. THE CITY OF CAP-HAÏTIEN.—Leaving Port Margo, we continue our journey by the way of Limbé

* In connexion with the discovery of Gold in Saint Domingo, the following will be perhaps interesting to some of my readers. "Le couvent des Cordeliers de San Domingo est bâti sur de filons de Mercure; de pareils existent près de San Yago. Les mines d'Or de Cibao, et celles de Sant Christophe où fut trouvé le fameux grain d'or dont j'ai parlé d'après Ovideo et Ulloa n'ont été comblées qu' après la destruction totale des malheureux originaires de Saint-Domingue. Quelques richesses qu'on en ait tirées, j'observe qu'alors on ne faisoit que des foilles superficelles, et que très-peu de parties ont été un peu approfondies."—*Manuel des Habitans de Saint-Domingue, par S. J. Ducoeurjoly.* 1802.

to the city of Cap-Haïtien, first resting at Manzares. Limbé has much about it in common with some of the other towns and villages that we have already visited, so we find little in it to detain us. Prior to the earthquake of 1842, the city of the Cape was the most magnificent in Haïti, perhaps in all the West Indies, for which reason it was designated the Paris of the Antilles. Even in its present ruined condition, we trace something of its former grandeur, now but imperfectly represented by ruined walls and razed structures. It is not possible to convey to any one the effect which the contemplation of the ruins of this city, this Palmyra of the Antilles, has on the mind of the spectator. One feels overcome with grief, and the tears start from the eyes involuntarily. Only the works of man have perished: nature has survived its throws, and the Morne Picolet frowns solemnly above this city of ruins, as it did prior to the sad event which mingled in a common overthrow palace, church, mansion, and cottage.

“States fall, arts fade, but nature never dies.”

The streets of the city are now exactly what they were prior to the catastrophe of 1842, paved with limestones, with a single watertable running along the centre, so that the streets, instead of being macadamized, have the appearance of two inclined plains meeting at acute angles in the centre. Most of the streets meet in a square, in the centre of which is a public drinking fountain, from which the water is constantly gushing out. The waste water from these fountains

find its way into the street drains, so that along every street a stream goes trickling towards the sea. By this means, acting the part of an atmospheric refrigerator, and a means of carrying off the impurities of the city into the sea. The entrance to the city from Mazares is low and marshy, and apparently liable to periodical inundations. On either side of the road, in common with all low marshy situations in the West Indies, we observe the mangrove supported as usual upon arched roots. I observed that where the soil is constantly under water, the habit of the branches bending downwards and taking root in the soil occurred, whilst in situations where there was little or no water the very opposite of this process was to be seen, the parent tree, throwing up shoots instead, as if the one process were the counterpart of the other, and dependent on opposite conditions.

We have already observed that the city of Cap-Haitien stands at the foot of the Morne Picolet. A day spent, by special invitation, on board the French barque *Novelle Pauline*, from Havre, afforded us an opportunity of observing the city and its adjacent scenery, under very advantageous circumstances. The barque was lying at some distance from the shore, at least sufficiently far to present the landscape under a very softened aspect. Picolet, with the ruins of the city and such restorations as have been completed and are in progress, were to be seen in their entirety, each harsh outline softened down, and bathed in bright sunlight, forming in all a sublime tableau, upon which

we might gaze with untiring gratification. The impression which such a scenery as this is calculated to make on the mind is not so much a sense of vastness, as concentrated softness. We find however, upon a close examination, that vastness forms a very large and important feature in this tableau of nature and man's skill combined. There are bold escarpments in the adjacent mountains, but these pass off gradually into gentle undulations, so that they seem to rise easily from the plain. Higher and still higher they rise, until at last, having attained their maximum elevation, they descend precipitously into the valleys beneath.

In the distance and on one of the heights is the Fort Ferrier, built by Christophe. It has been very elegantly spoken of as "a citadel in the clouds," and not unaptly so, since we frequently see the clouds scudding at its base. It is said to be a very remarkable fortress. Although in its immediate vicinity, I very much regret that I was unable to visit it, and can therefore only allude to it *en passant* as worthy of the attention of those who travel through Haiti. After a few days' repose we visited the village of Grande Revierre. This village is situated east of the city of Cap-Haïtien, and doubtless derives its name from the river on the banks of which it is built. The dwellings of these villagers are principally thatched huts, built apparently without regard to any settled plan. Unlike the other villages of the same sort which we had already visited we observed little or no cultivation. Few and far apart we noticed some gardens of Plantain trees, but these were

not by any means very extensive. In this direction, as well as in the opposite, we observed many abandoned or but partially cultivated plantations of Sugar Cane, like so many ghosts of the past haunting the present. Everything bore the aspect of ruin,—neglected fields, a sparse industry, and departed greatness meet the eye at every step. We may deplore these things for the sake of the people who are the present holders of the soil of Haïti, but scarcely on account of humanity. Better the ruins of to-day with liberty, than the grandeur and prosperity of the past with slavery, and the accursed traffic in human flesh and blood! From the village of Grande Revierre we made an excursion into the mountains, for the purpose of examining some indications of a copper mine in the Morne Celon. Of these we shall speak more fully in another place. The view of the valley beneath with the stream winding its way through it, the cottages with their whitened walls and grass covered roofs, and the mountains on the opposite side, spotted here and there with cultivated portions, formed a very pleasing picture. As we ascended the mountain's side we had an opportunity of viewing this interesting landscape under many and varied aspects, each scene passing into the other like the ever-shifting pictures of a dissolving view. On this mountain we visited very many neat cottages, surrounded with gardens of coffee, orange, and plantain trees. In the gardens of Haïti we miss the bread fruit tree which forms so prominent an element in the negro gardens of Jamaica. Never-

theless there is that charming variety, that irregular blending of different things, in the one and the other, which on the whole throws a charm around them, and lends to them an air of comfort, plenty, and rural happiness. At all of the cottages, which we visited, we received a hearty welcome, and we were treated with that unbounded hospitality for which the people of Haïti are so remarkable. It was late in the evening ere we returned to the village—we therefore passed the night there, and next morning retraced our steps to the city.

On the morning of the 20th January, (1861,) we took our departure from the city of the Cape, *en route* for Gonaïves. We passed by the way of Limbé, and from thence we travel along the banks of the river, over a road covered with a carpet of grass. The scenery from Limbé across the mountains to the hamlet of Plaisance was indeed most picturesque. We arrived at this hamlet at a late hour in the evening. It consists of a few huts, erected within a mountain gorge. The hills about this hamlet are principally of a conical form, upon the sides and summits of which the pine was flourishing side by side with the palm tree. Nothing can exceed the beauty of the surrounding scenery, nor is it possible to find a spot in either Haiti or Jamaica surpassing in salubrity the climate of the valley of Plaisance. Long before sunrise the next morning we were pursuing our journey, passing in our way many a homestead surrounded by its garden of coffee and plantain trees. After passing over a nar-

row stream, which meanders at the foot of the mountain, we begin the ascent. A few hours more and we were descending the paved road of the Escalier, with a lofty rock on the one hand rising up abruptly and almost perpendicularly, and on the other a rising ground running in an inclined plain towards the level of the road along which we were pursuing our journey.

This road affords us little to offer any observations on; neither cottage nor hamlet lays along it, nor is there any trace of human habitation until within a short distance of Gonaïves. As we approach the Po-teau we observe the hills in the distance, apparently isolated and resting on the bosom of the plain, like so many natural pyramids. A few hours more, and our weary ride is at an end, and we are once more in the town of Gonaïves.

VII. THE TERRE NEUVE.—Crossing over the Lapierre from Gonaïves, we arrive at the village of the Terre Neuve, with its neat little cottages and warm hearts. This village is situated somewhat like Plaisance, in the midst of mountains of considerable height. The cottages are not arranged in any given order, but are scattered, as if the villagers constructed them without reference to streets, or indeed without regard to yard-room. As is almost universally the case with all the inland hamlets and villages of Haïti, this stands on the banks of a small stream along the steep sides of which are the almost universal gardens of Coffee and Plantains. Viewed from the Northern heights,

the village presents a most interesting appearance; hemmed in by mountains, it seems a place where one might wear life away free from all the turmoils of the world and in calm security. To the west of these heights lies the wild and desolate plains of the savannah of the Port à Piment, stretching away to the waters edge. The Terre Neuve, as we shall presently see, is a highly metalliferous district and contains copper mines of very excellent promise. The soil of this locality is fertile, its climate temperate and salubrious, and it is said to be extremely healthy.

Prosecuting our journey in a westerly direction, we bend our steps to the barren savannah of which we had only yesterday an indistinct view from the heights of Rabouteau. Through a mountain gorge, then through brake and jungle, and we stand on the undulating ground of the savannah. We cast our eyes around, and far as they can stretch we see a sparse vegetation, among which, the most prominent, are a few scattered clumps of what we term in this country Wire-grass, a few Acacia trees, and one or two varieties of Cacti. The silence and desolateness of this place is not broken by even the notes of a bird, and the total absence of any trace of cows, sheep, or goats, warns us that no human habitation is near.

From the Savannah of the Port à Piment, we observe the *Morne Chateau* rising above hills of less elevation, but presenting a conformation not unlike itself, that is, approximating to the pyramidal. This moun-

tain appears to be very steep, and my guide informed me that it is usually spoken of as inaccessible, indeed, according to his account, it is the *terra incognita* of Haïti, and appears to be regarded with a dread, akin to superstition. Tradition says that during the old regime a man, more hardy than the rest, determined to scale this mountain; he tempted his fate, and was never more seen or heard of! I expressed a desire to ascend it, but my wish was treated not only as something outré, but I was assured that it was altogether beyond the hope of realization, because there was first no known road to it, and, above all, no one could be got to guide me to it. Whilst at Jean Rabel, I expressed to Colonel Lacroix my desire to ascend the Morne Chateau; he treated it as one beyond the hope of gratification, and added that the district of the Morne Chateau is so little known that, when he once expressed a wish to visit the locality and ascend the mountain, he could find no one to guide him.

As it was growing late in the day, and we were anxious to arrive at the *source chaude* or Thermal spring of the savannah, we hurried on, and in less than two hours we were at the corral, in its immediate vicinity, and alighting from our horses.

The thermal spring was discovered by a French officer in 1772. The water is not charged to excess with any mineral matter, and is therefore drinkable when cool. The temperature of the spring at its source, is equal to 120° F. The fountains and baths

which were constructed by the French, in order to render this spring available for medicinal purposes, are still standing, and might, with little trouble or outlay, be made as valuable now as in days gone by. The only fruit trees which we observed about the cottage, were a mango and cocoanut tree in the neighbourhood of what seemed to be a deserted garden.

We resumed our journey at an early hour next morning. Our road laid directly across the saline of the savannah, and from thence over limestone rocks that rise in tiers, one above the other, like a series of steps. The surface of these rocks, being honey combed, was as rough as a rasp, and, in consequence, proved exceedingly disagreeable to travel over. We found ourselves in the course of the journey over these rocky steps frequently ascending one tier of rocks, then descending another in turn, and in the course of our transit from one tier to another we were forced to proceed not unfrequently on foot from the precipitous character of the passage. It is not possible to convey to the reader any idea of the difficulties of this pass, nor the desert character of the country along which we were journeying. It was about sunrise, that hour above every other which is the peculiar song time of birds in the tropics, but not a bird was to be heard chanting its matins; the surrounding scenery was essentially one of silence and desolation; not even a wild flower opened its petals to catch the first rays of the rising sun, and to cheer us along this desolate country; the Curatœ, the Arborescent Cactus, and the Nopal

constituted more than two-thirds of the vegetation of this wild scenery. Descending tier after tier we arrived at last at a point where our further passage appeared to have been arrested by the sea. We were now standing on the last tier of rocks, the base of which was being laved by the briny waves. Here our guide procured a canoe to ferry us and our effects over to the opposite shore. But, what about the horses? The saddles and riding tackle were taken off these, and by means of ropes attached to the stern of the canoe they were made to swim over. In less than five minutes we were standing in the midst of a small fisherman's village, strangely designated "*Petite Paradise*" or "Little Heaven." This is simply a small bay bounded by the limestone cliffs across which we had been journeying, and over which, alas, we had to continue our tour. At "*Petite Paradise*," and at the base of the rock upon which we were standing but a few moments previous, we observed that the water of the sea flowed into a deep trough, upon the banks of which some mangrove trees were growing. The water in this trough was very black. Its appearance struck me at the time as being remarkable, but I had neither the leisure, nor at the time the disposition to institute any investigations into the cause of its peculiar appearance. We were not unfrequently surprised at the extraordinary names which the *Haitiens* apply to places; we have already, in the course of this chapter, noted the name *Gros Morne* as applied to the limestone hillock at *St. Marc*, but what entitles a place like this

—situated in the midst of a desolate tract of country, with scarcely a tree, bird, or flower—to the appellative of Little Heaven, is certainly beyond my comprehension, and I can only think that this place of huts has been named *Petite Paradise* in a spirit of irony. Let us pass on.

The horses were soon got ready, and we were once more pursuing our journey over roads not at all unlike those which we had been traversing, in our transit from the Savannah to "*Petite Paradise*." In about three hours from the time we started from this last named place, we arrived at another fisherman's village, namely, Baie de Henne. Our horses were completely knocked up on our arrival at this place, and our pack horse was so disabled that we had to spend several days here until our riding horses were sufficiently rested and a mule could be obtained, to take our effects along with us. From Baie de Henne we continued our journey across these limestone steps to Bombarde, and from thence to the Mole St. Nicholas.

VIII.—BOMBARDE.—This village presents nothing different in character from any of those which we have already visited; we notice the same mud wall, grass covered cottages, with here and there one covered with shingles, and the same gardens of plantain trees. There is therefore nothing to detain us. Its position is on one of the heights immediately above the Mole St. Nicholas, and its climate is most delightfully cool. I was assured that within the previous twelve months

only two deaths occurred, and these were two persons far advanced in life, and that, at that moment there was no sickness in the village. I found no difficulty in giving full credence to this statement since from the position of this village it enjoys a climate intermediate in character between that of the seaside and the mountains. The scenery and geological formation of this district being in all respects like and identical with those which we had been traversing from the Savannah of the Port à Piment to this point, we did not deem it necessary to prolong our sojourn at Bombarde beyond the evening. Our horses were in good travelling condition, and we therefore pressed on to the next point, which was the Mole St. Nicholas.

IX.—THE MOLE ST. NICHOLAS.—From Bombarde we travelled along a grass covered road, inclining by an easy and almost imperceptible descent towards the sea shore. On the one hand, and stretching away to the north-east, were a series of low hills, with scarcely an undulation on their surface, covered with a dense vegetation of shrubs, such as we usually observe on limestone hills, whilst towards the west we observed the bluff of the Mole, presenting, when viewed in profile, the appearance of a series of steps. This bluff rises abruptly from the water's edge, and overlooks the deep and spacious harbour of the Mole. Here, also, the central chain of the mountains of the North of Haiti terminates.

The Mole St. Nicholas is classic ground. Upon

this spot of earth, that adventurous pilot, Christopher Columbus, first landed when he discovered the island, and named it *Hispaniola*. The name which this place now bears,—St. Nicholas,—was given to it by him; and on the summit of that bluff, to which we have already alluded, he erected a cross in token of having taken possession.*

We arrived at the town between the hours of eight and nine. It is clean, apparently well ordered, and built after the model of the city of the Cape. There is an air of order and regularity about this place, that form rather the exception, than the rule in the towns and villages of Haiti. We observe, however, the same delapidation that is so common to the other towns of this country, indications of the apathy and indifference which have seized on the people of this fair land, owing principally to the continued misrule to which they have been subjected, and the frequent revolutions arising out of it.

The Mole St. Nicholas is not only classic but historic ground. So far as the fate and fortunes of the Republic have been concerned, it has been the scene of many a fierce and bloody contest. The evidences of one of these contests, during the time of Christophe, are still to be seen in the ruined forts and fortifications which

* Those of my readers who may be desirous of learning all particulars in connexion with the landing of Columbus, at Mole St. Nicholas, will do well to consult *Washington Irving's Life, and Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, Ch. IV.

are scattered all around. The Mole is beyond a question a point of considerable strategic importance—one which, if fortified by modern engineering skill, would prove a second Gibraltar, and in the event of any attacks from without, a not unimportant fortress.

We rested at the Mole until after mid-day, and then proceeded on to the interesting village of Jean Rabel.

X. JEAN RABEL.—We continue our journey along the base of the limestone hills, which form the North-eastern boundary of the Mole St. Nicholas—passing over a continuation of the limestone steps of which the other members of the series lay on our right, rising one above the other, with their hollow excavations imparting to them the appearance of the ruins of an extensive fortress. The road was exceedingly rough, since we had to ride over the surface of honey-combed limestone rocks—the honey-combe not being of that description that has deep cavities, but simply roughened, something after the fashion of a rasp. We journeyed along this road for upwards of twenty-one miles, by the sea shore, then striking off to the right, we pursued the road for about three miles, making directly for the base of the hills under whose shadow the village reposed, with a fine stream of water winding its sinuous course along its whole length on to the sea.

It was after five o'clock when we entered this picturesque little village. The shades of night were falling fast around it, presenting every surrounding object

under the softened aspect which the neutral tints of a tropical twilight throw around them.

This village consists of thatched huts of the rudest construction, with a sprinkling of a few houses of a higher type, made of boards, and covered with shingles. We trace about it the sad monuments of the earthquake of 1842. The violence of the shocks seemed to have been nearly spent when they reached this point ; hence we find that, the ruins are not very extensive, and that we do not trace any beyond this, westward, nor any further in, toward Terre Neuve, or the Gonaïves. We made several excursions for geological purposes, into the mountains. Starting from the village in a south-easterly direction, we traversed the banks of the river of Jean Rabel. On either bank we observed some highly cultivated gardens, in not a few of which were to be seen a father, with his family, diligently engaged in pursuing the cultivation of the soil. The uncultivated portions are covered with a low grassy sward, thus imparting an appearance to the landscape that impresses the traveller with a feeling of monotony, but not to an extent that proves painful. We pursue this road for a few miles inland, and then arrive at the deep blue source of the stream. Above the source, and rising somewhat from the level of its banks in the form of an inclined plain, is a thick stratum of shale, along the sides of which the water from the adjacent hills, during the rainy seasons, rushes down, thus swelling the source, and increasing the volume of the stream that issues from it. This stream when

not swollen is shallow and narrow, and affords a water supply adequate to the necessities of the inhabitants of the village, whilst in its course towards the sea, it proves an important means of irrigation to the cottagers whose cultivated patches of ground lay along its banks. We made two or three of these inland excursions from Jean Rabel for the purpose of prosecuting geological investigations, but of these we shall have occasion to speak more fully in another chapter. After a week spent beneath the hospitable roof, and in the pleasing society of Colonel Lacroix and his family, we took our departure for the town of Port-de-Paix.

VI. PORT-DE-PAIX.—We travel in a north-easterly direction for more than thirty-six miles over an almost level road, carpetted in many places by a grassy sward, in others bare, and rising now and again into low mounds which appear to stretch across the road. The vegetation which skirts the road side, consists for the most part of the *Acacia*, mingled with several varieties of *Cacti*, principally of the arborescent type. The hills along this part of the country are low, rising in some places into cones and pyramids, but consisting chiefly of soft rounded hills covered with vegetation. These appear to be a continuation of the low hills which environ the village of *Jean Rabel*. The scenery between Jean Rabel, and Port-de-Paix, although not very striking in its physiognomy, is nevertheless, from the configuration of the hills, of a soft and expansive character, so that, although the same forms are

ever constantly occurring with little or no variation, the impression which it leaves on the mind is rather pleasing than otherwise. Having crossed over the river, we very soon exchanged hill and valley for a low marshy country, on the confines of the sea shore. We cross over this marshy ground, our horses in the transit plunging awkwardly in the mud, and then the town of Port-de-Paix opens suddenly on the view, a medley of boarded houses, and mud-walled cottages arranged in a somewhat scattered style over a pretty large area of ground. It seems remarkable, that where so many other salubrious localities exist between Jean Rabel and the site upon which the town of Port-de Paix at present stands, this should have been selected, and we can only account for this choice, on the supposition, that the advantage of its being a sea-port, was perhaps the influencing cause. Immediately opposite to *Port-de-Paix* is the *Isle de la Tortue*, celebrated as a place of rendezvous for the buccaneers. This isle affords ample protection to the harbour of Port-de-Paix, and renders it a perfectly safe port in case of storms.

At Port-de-Paix there are extensive ruins, the result of the Earthquake of 1842. Here, as at the city of Cap-Haïtien, the buildings fell towards the South-west, all the North-east walls remaining upright—thus indicating that the concussions moved from North-East to South-West. A few days prior to my departure from this town, on the evening of the 8th April, (1861) a severe shock of Earthquake occurred, the undulations proceeding from North-East to South-West. As may

be supposed, this had the effect of producing considerable alarm, and it gave rise to many sad reminiscences of the past.

We passed a week at Port-de-Paix, and then returned by way of Gros Morne and Gonaïves, to Port-au-Prince, and from thence, in the *Talisman*, returned to Jamaica. Such is a rapid sketch of the towns and villages of the North and North-West of Haïti, but what we gather from this survey, will form the subject of our next chapter.

CHAPTER IV.

The Social Condition of Haiti.

“ There is no doubt that in every society that exists, however newly-born or feebly-constituted it may be, a moral power is perceptible, animating and directing it.”—GUIZOT.

Perhaps that beautiful picture drawn by Robert Burns in his *Cotter's Saturday night* is a sketch of domestic life peculiar to Scotland ; but we cannot doubt that a commonwealth, composed of a number of families in which the industrial and religious elements form such striking points, must march steadily onwards and upwards in the paths of progress, and, *ceteris paribus*, must take up a high place among civilized nations. Religion and industry are the moral elements of a settled state of society. Little time or space is there for either when everything rests within the uncertain shadows of revolutionary contests.

But even in revolutionary countries, however feebly the links of society are knit together, we must ever

look to the family relation—as that which, from the very nature of the case, constitutes the proximate element of the body politic—for the moral principle which animates and directs the whole.

The question arises, what is the predominant moral principle which at this moment animates and directs the social constitution of Haïti? Our review of the towns and villages of Haïti presents us with an arrested civilization, as well as decided marks of retrogression. We may trace one and the other to the same cause; the latter is but the inevitable consequence of the former. The civilization, which we see among this people, they owe to the old or French regime of Haïti. The manners, morals, customs and habits, are either degenerations from, or over-developments of those which we find to-day in France. That spirit of unrest, that over-weaning love of novelty, arising out of an exuberant ambition, for which Haïti is so remarkable, and which, unhappily, is ever manifesting itself in every question relating to its government and politics, are only the exponents of that spirit which has animated every revolution in France, and which animates and originates every revolution in Haïti. The perfect equality of all men, and unrestrained liberty as a consequence, formed the moral principle which has hitherto animated and directed every revolution in France. In France the contests arising out of the spirit of liberty and equality, were contests of class against class; in Haïti, unfortunately, class and cast are included, since the one has its foundation in

the other, and it has now degenerated into this, that all the revolutions with which Haïti has of late been afflicted, and which have had so much to do with the arrest of her civilization, are simply a contest of races. The first effort of the people of Haïti was to drive away from their shores the white men who were hated as the oppressors, and, therefore, the natural enemies of every son of Africa. The white man and slavery are correlatives in the Haïtien mind, and, regarding the one as the author of oppression, they look upon the other as subversive of the great moral principle to which they stand pledged, namely, the perfect equality of all men. To drive the white man out of the country was the great principle of the first revolution in Haïti, and ever to keep him out, and, by this means, to prevent the recurrence of his oppression at any future time, they claimed to govern themselves, prohibiting any white man to land as proprietor on Haïtien soil, and visiting with severe pains and penalties—as was done in one case during my sojourn in Haïti—any who assert that a white man, or a mulatto, is better than a black man. The white man is no longer the master of Haïtien soil; still the war of races is not at an end. In the mulatto, the white man has those who yet sympathise with him; who, in some sense at least, yet represent him. Though they tolerate the mulatto among them; though he holds a property, and may attain to the highest position in the government, namely, the Presidency, he is always regarded with suspicion by the black man, who, drinking deeply of the spirit of the sanguinary Dessa-

line, ardently wish for the advent of that day when the white man and the mulatto shall be spoken of in Haïtien story as beings of the past. The social bane of Haïti is complexional prejudice ; there, as here, it chokes every kind sentiment, and there, as here, it leaves society a mass of jarring discordant elements.

Many of the evils which a European may deem it necessary to condemn, upon closer inspection, he will find to be some of the loathsome leprosy spots bequeathed to the people of Haiti by slavery in part ; and in part, he will be able to trace them to those peculiar sentiments which find their full and free exponents in French morality ! I intend nothing offensive, but speak of these things simply as matters of fact, and lament them, as some of those short comings alluded to in the introduction. *Concubinage* is at the present moment rampant in Haïti. No difference is placed in society between the honest matron and the mistress. Mingle, mingle is the order of the day, in the domestic circle, at masque, at party and at ball side by side, at the same altar ; they meet, and at all, no greater preference is shown to her who claims the honest title of wife, than to her whose position is only that of the concubine. Young girls, too, are known to halt in their choice between the one and the other, whether to marry or "*placer*." These are facts lamentably true, and they indicate a social condition the worst possible. But let us not be too

harsh in pronouncing judgment; rather let us reflect on the examples to which they have been exposed, and the teaching by which they have been hitherto, and are still, influenced.

- The evil effects of this state of society exhibit themselves in a variety of ways; but one of its most unhappy concomitants is *duelling*. The matter of Mr. A. D. Wolffe is a case in point, as illustrating the lengths to which the highly reprehensible and criminal custom of duelling is carried. It is not necessary to enter into details respecting the cause of this fatal rencontre; suffice it to say, that the duel arose out of a question affecting the domestic circumstances of the gentleman who was Mr. Wolffe's antagonist. In consequence of it having been asserted that M. Guersy had used unfair means to compass the death of Mr. Wolffe, he was apprehended and tried; but, as my readers may readily suppose, in a country where duelling is countenanced and upheld by the law, he escaped. Frequently, too, we hear of assassinations arising out of quarrels relative to mistresses. Such a case occurred between two consins, and one, by the way, a teacher of youth, only the night previous to my arrival at the city of Cap-Haïtien. We cannot do otherwise than lament these evils, and condemn them; but it is no difficult matter to trace them to their source, and to discover their origin. There is nothing that would add more honor to the Haïtien government than that of making this system of deciding differences criminal, and punishing, capi-

tally, the man by whose hand another may happen to fall.

Religion forms but a small element in the social constitution of Haïti. Until the presidency of Geffrard, the Sunday-markets continued to be kept; but he has since abolished them. Still, in many of the smaller towns, as at le Borgne, we find a lingering tendency to keep up this figment of slavery, and system of demoralization. Even in the schools, of which by the way there are many under government patronage and surveillance, religious teaching forms a very small element in the course of instruction, and, in some, it constitutes no part of the routine. Thus, one of the greatest and most important means of social improvement is wanting, and this want is to be seen in almost every department, manifesting itself by the prevalence of vices more or less revolting.

It is estimated that the population of Haiti is equal to 500,000, of which 2,000 only are protestants; the rest are either Romanists, or adherents of Fetish, or else a mongrel sort of creed, consisting of something of Romanism tacked on to Fetish. The protestant religious element was introduced during the time of President Petion, in the year 1816, by the Wesleyans, and further accessions were made to protestantism, under President Boyer, by the American immigrants, who were then introduced into Haïti. These people were chiefly Baptists. The immigrants that are now being introduced by President Geffrard, are, many of them,

adherents to the American Episcopal Church. Thus, further additions are being made to the protestantism of the country from without.

The prevalence, at this moment, of Fetish, is not to be doubted. I visited, at la Croix des Bouquets, one of the temples devoted to this superstition. It is said, that Faustin I, patronized very extensively this system of African superstition, and did not hesitate to take part in the ceremonies of the Vaudaux.* The Vaudaux dance is openly practised in the town of Port-au-Prince, and in many towns of

* The following, taken from an old number of "The London Illustrated News," is given in illustration." "A letter from "Haïti, of Feb. 8, in the *Presse*, says :—"The Emperor Faustin "has just quitted his capital to pass a week at the Petit-Goave, "his native place. The object of his going was to celebrate a "funeral service for the souls of his father and mother, and to "witness the marriage of two old negroes, the parents of the "Empress, who never expecting the elevation of their daughter, "had not thought it worth while to obtain the nuptial benediction. A dozen of regiments, forming about a thousand men, "the Princes and Princesses of the blood, the Dukes, Counts, "Barons, Knights, the ladies of the court, and, in fact, almost "all the civil and military *employées*, were assembled at the "Petit-Goave to add to the solemnity of the *fete*. The French "corvette the *Naiade* came to anchor before this old capital of "the French part, which for forty-eight years had not seen a "vessel-of-war. During the funeral service, the corvette had "its colours half-mast high, and fired a number of guns, which "singularly flattered the vanity of the blacks, and has perhaps "contributed to smooth down some difficulties of late pending. "After the service, the Emperor proceeded to a habitation situated some leagues from the coast, near which his father and "mother were buried. At midnight he and the Empress went "out without guards, and accompanied only by some persons "believing in the ceremonies of the Vaudoux. The Empress "walked first, holding a cock in her hand. The priests carried

Haiti. It is confidently affirmed, in quarters where we have no reason to doubt it, that many of those who hold high and important stations in the government, are adherents to this superstition. A degenerate Christianity, mingled with a barbarous superstition, are all that we find which puts on the semblance of religion among the bulk of this people—and this they owe as much to the want of an extensive diffusion of bible knowledge, and bible religion, as to any other cause. But let us draw a veil over these social evils, and turn our attention to what will be deemed a more interesting picture.

The people of Haiti have not relapsed into savage life as some pretend. Far from it. Although we see much in their social system of which we cannot conscientiously approve, still there is much to admire even in this respect. There are very few of the *Haitiens* who are uneducated; there is a widespread refinement in manners, even among mountaineers, and a staid, sedate demeanour among children, that is rather pleasing. To this we must add, that an air of comfort hangs about the hum-

"a sheep and a kid, the mingled blood of which was to serve to prepare the wanga. When they arrived at the cemetery, the priests contrived, by means of certain charms, to fix in a vessel of water the souls of the parents of *Soulouque*. The soul of his mother then spoke, and informed the sacrificators that she was much obliged to them for the ceremony, which had just taken place; but there was no occasion to feel any uneasiness on their account, as they were well off in the other world. The three animals were then killed, *Soulouque* drinking of the blood, and with it, making cabalistical signs. Afterwards, the vase was interred with all due ceremony."

blest Haïtien dwelling, that adds much to the unbounded hospitality with which a traveller is usually greeted by this kind and warm-hearted people.

In the foregoing review of the social condition of Haïti, we gather enough to render these conclusions evident—that the defective condition of its social system is owing chiefly to past influences of a political and domestic nature, and that it continues so, partly, from the want of sound religious training ; but at the same time we cannot fail to detect elements permeating the whole system, domestic and political, which, if well directed by other influences and higher moral and religious training, would ultimately work a considerable social reform, and be finally developed into a system animated and directed by a moral principle as high as any to be found amidst the refinements of European civilization.

CHAPTER V.

The Geology of the North of Haïti.

" Keen was the search, and various, and wide,
" Without, within, along the flowery vale ;
" And up the rugged cliff, and on the top,
" Of mountains high."—POLLOCK.

The geological structure of Haïti, in the North and North-West portions, may, perhaps, be best illustrated by adopting a simile employed by Hugh Miller, that is, to compare the whole to a series of picture frames enclosed one within the other, and varying in size from without inwards. Extending in a line more or less direct towards the west, from the Cretes du Cibao to the bluff that overlooks the Mole St. Nicholas, is the chain of mountains which form the central ridge or axis of this portion of the island. The mountains which form this central ridge approach the sea shore nearer on the southern than on the northern side ; as if the upheaving force were exerted with greater violence on the one than on the other side of the ridge.

These mountains are formed of porphyritic rocks, which appear to have been the upheaving agent. Like so many tilted volumes on a shelf, the sedimentary rocks are to be found reposing on either side of this central ridge; inclining on the one side towards the south-west, and, on the other, towards the north-east; as if the porphyritic, or upheaving rocks, were thrown up through the sedimentary masses after the manner of a wedge driven from below upwards.

Proceeding from within outwards, we find the following sedimentary rocks reposing on either side of the central ridge, in the order in which they are enumerated;—

NORTH.

1. Argillaceous Shale
2. Sandstones
3. Conglomerates
4. White Limestone
5. Marine Agglomerate

SOUTH.

1. Argillaceous Shale
2. Argillaceous Limestone
3. White Limestone
4. Marine Agglomerate

1—THE MARINE AGGLOMERATE.—This deposit forms the external band of sedimentary rocks; in other words, it is the uppermost deposit. I term it an agglomerate, because it consists either of a mass of shells and corals united together by a calcareous cement, or else it is a heterogeneous mixture of shells, corals, water rolled fragments of pottery, and pebbles of the different rocks laying in its immediate vicinity, all cemented together into a very hard mass.

At the Gros Morne, near St. Marc, we find interesting indications of this agglomerate. The rocks of which this hillock is formed are distinctly stratified ; the strata dipping towards the S. W. at an angle of 25° . They consist of decomposed corals, and comminuted shells, with here and there casts of a bivalve shell. Some of the fragments broken at random from the mass, presented impressions of the valves of a *Pecten*, recent specimens of which are to be sometimes found on the sea beach in the immediate vicinity of St. Marc. We see this agglomerate very extensively developed at the base of the last tier of limestone steps, or, to speak more correctly, raised beaches which extend from Port à Piment to Mole St. Nicholas, and from thence to Port de Paix. At Port de Paix we find it assuming another character. The shells and corals are in a better state of preservation, and are associated with pebbles of porphyry, water rolled fragments of the sandstone which it overlaps, and fragments of pottery, also water rolled, all of which, are blended into one hard mass by means of a cement composed of sand and calcareous matter. The corals are chiefly specimens of *Madreporæ*, *Meandrinæ*, and *Astreæ*. The shells are all specimens of existing species of *Cerithium*, *Trochus*, *Oliva*, *Cardium*, and *Cockles*. This member of the marine agglomerate is exceedingly interesting, as affording proofs by the fossils which it contains, that it is of recent origin ; and, further, from the specimens of broken pottery which we detect in it, we gather that its formation is

contemporaneous with man, and that, as a consequence, it has been elevated during the last upheavals.

2—THE WHITE-LIMESTONE.—Of this there are several varieties, namely, the Crystalline,* Compact, Silicious, and Fossiliferous. This series covers a very large portion of the North of Haiti, exhibiting itself in the form of mountains of considerable heights, remarkable on the one hand for the softness of their outline, and, on the other, for their bold escarpments, deep ravines, and narrow gorges. Such is the character of the Morne Font Baptiste, the base of which extends nearly to the water's edge, and along which we travel on our way from l'Arcahayé to St. Marc. The ravine Symonette, and the ravine la Place, the former laying north, and the latter north-west of Dessaline, afford us examples of the deep ravines which usually occur in the mountains composed of this species of limestone. In both these ravines we observe that the limestone is inclined at a considerable angle towards the S. W., and that it affords examples of what geologists usually term, jointed structure. The whole mass of rock is split up into symmetrical blocks, the chinks between each block being but slightly open. Along the road from Terre Neuve to the Savannah of the Port à Piment, the limestone rises on either side in the form of high cliffs, thus forming

* The term crystalline limestone is commonly applied by geologists to MARBLE; but it is not so employed in this place, it simply refers to limestone composed of crystals or in which there is a tendency to crystallization.

at one point of the road a narrow gorge. Here also we find the rock distinctly stratified—the strata inclining to the S. W. at an angle of 40° , and it also affords further examples of jointed structure.

It is by no means an uncommon thing to find the compact and crystalline varieties of white limestone associated; or to find the compact passing gradually into the silicious. We had some examples of the former phenomenon in the Ravine Symmonette already alluded to, and of the latter, as we shall presently see, examples occur in the vicinity of Gonaïves. In like manner it frequently happens that fossils of minute shells are to be found imbedded in the silicious variety, after the manner in which the shells of animalculæ occur in flint.

There are two other points worthy of note in regard to the white limestone. We find in some instances, chiefly in the silicious and fossiliferous varieties, and occasionally in the compact, that the surface is honey combed or cellular. More frequently in the compact variety we find it brecciated, as if the mass at the moment of its upheaval were broken into fragments which were subsequently cemented by ferruginous matter into a compact mass.

At the *Morne Bianac*, situated north of Gonaïves, we find the compact limestone passing at its upper portion into the silicious variety, and presenting in some places the cellular, and, in others, the brecciated

structure. Laying loose among the rubble on the mountain's side we found a large fragment of brecciated limestone; the breccia being united together by an ochrey cement.* At Reverdure, the white limestone also occurs; but here it is the silicious variety, in its structure highly cellular, and containing the fossil remains of very minute shells. There were very few of these fossils contained in this limestone. The colour of the limestone in this locality, is that of a dark grey, its fracture is semi-conchoidal, and fragments broken from the mass presented to the naked eye white spots here and there, which, when examined with a powerful lens, proved to be minute shells in appearance, like the *Helix*. Beyond these, I detected no trace of animal life in either of the specimens of limestones which I examined, that fall under the head of compact or silicious white limestone.

The fossiliferous members of this series, are to be found in the neighbourhood of Port à Piment, where they occur under the form of raised beaches. From this point we trace them to within a short distance of

* This mountain has a peculiarly barren aspect—there is little or no vegetation on it. The *Agave Americana*; a variety of Turk's head cactus—"Tete Anglais"; an arborescent cactus; the Frangepan; a balsamic herb, called Wild Thyme—"Thym Sauvage;" and the Wire grass, constituted the Botany of this mountain. Here I observed what I consider is worthy of note, that is, that although it was the month of December the *Agave* was in flower, displaying in full perfection its lofty spike of orange colored flowers. My readers are all aware that the flowering season in Jamaica is the months of April and May, hence it is sometimes familiarly designated the May-pole.

Port-de-Paix. The fossil contents of this limestone are principally corals and shells, but my time did not admit of any detailed examination of them. I have spoken of these steps or terraces as raised beaches. Of this, I think it is scarcely possible to entertain a doubt, when we examine the tiers of rocks on the right hand of the road leading to Jean Rabel. Evidently at some time past, each of these steps was formed at the bottom of the sea, and elevated at successive periods to form the boundary line of a bold coast. At the base of this elevated tier, the next in succession was deposited, and then gradually raised up to the surface of the water, the waves in the mean time surging over it, fretting its surface into that peculiar honey-combed structure already noticed, and scooping out the sides of the elevated terrace into hollows. These hollows impart to the rocks a remarkable appearance, that rather remind the beholder of the ruins of some effort of man's genius than of any work of nature. Rising tier above tier, they stretch away towards the East in an almost unbroken line, and as you journey along their base, they seem to look down upon you, as I have already observed, like some deserted fortress. I counted not fewer than eight of these steps. Of these, the three uppermost were more softened in their outline, doubtless owing to their having been exposed for a longer time to the action of denuding agents.

There is just cause for thinking that the agencies which have conspired to form and elevate these ter

aces are still in operation ; that at the foot of that tier which forms the present bold coast of the North-west of Haiti, the process of deposition is gradually, but not the less effectively proceeding ; and that this new terrace, will, in time, be upraised to replace the existing coast line. Thus it may fall to the lot of some future observer to point out the existing coast-line as the ancient boundary of the old shore, when that which is now in the course of formation, shall be elevated and replace it.

The consideration of these ancient beaches suggests the conclusion, that the force which has hitherto been in operation, is a process of elevation, thus impugning the popular opinion that all the West India islands, Haiti as a matter of course included, are gradually subsiding, and that ultimately they will be engulfed.

These deposits in the process of elevation have been thrown but slightly out of the horizontal, and we further observe that between the elevation of each terrace sufficient time must have elapsed to admit of the waves acting on its sides, fretting the limestone into cavities and crannies of greater or lesser size. It will thus be perceived that the elevation of the beaches has not been effected by any violent upheaving force, but by a slow and continuous action, aided occasionally by violent throws. If these beaches have been formed and elevated, as we suppose, it must follow that the very opposite of the popular opinion is the correct view, and that, so far from the force which is being exerted from below is concerned, in regard to this group of islands,

it is not one of subsidence, but rather of elevation. It will be seen, when we come to speak of the ruins, that are the remains from the earthquake of 1842, that this opinion is fully borne out.

It is, I think, highly probable that the view which Hugh Miller has taken of the alternate elevation and depression of Scotland, during the old geological periods, admits of application, as a general law to all islands, and that as a consequence these islands have had their period of depression in the past, and that the force at present in operation is the very opposite; in other words, this is their era of elevation. I do not feel myself authorized to dogmatize on the general application of the hypothesis of this great geologist respecting his own country; but I do not hesitate to offer the suggestion for consideration, leaving it with scientific men to receive it for as much as it may be worth.

3. ARGILLACEOUS LIMESTONE.—Laying immediately below the White limestone, and above the Argillaceous shale, is this limestone, broken up into tabulated masses which vary in thickness from two to three inches. It occurs for the first time on either side of the gorge through which we travelled, from the Escalier to Gonaïves, rising up on one side of it like a wall, a few hundred feet high. At the Morne Bianac, near Gonaïves, we trace it underlying the white limestone; and when we cross over the Lapierre to Terre Neuve, as we issue from the gorge of the white limestone, and after a time enter on the Savannah of Port à Piment,

we again find it assuming the form of mounds and low dome shaped hills, or else, as at the Escalier, rising abruptly up in the form of walls on either side of narrow ravines.

It has a slight ochrey tinge, indicating a small proportion of iron; its fracture is semi-conchoidal; it is hard and weathers with difficulty, but wherever it has undergone disintegration, it assumes the form of an intensely white marl, painful in the extreme to look upon under the sun-light of noon. At the Escalier, the stratification is contorted. When viewed at different points, it has the appearance of having been upheaved in the form of a soft mud, and then subjected to the action of heat and lateral pressure. In this way, I account for its contorted stratification and tabulated structure. We detect distinct chinks between each stratum in the line of bedding; and the strata do not exceed the thickness of the tabulated masses. This limestone affords us a further instance of jointed structure. The chinks between the joints are very wide, so that the rock, when viewed in the direction of the strike, has the appearance of a wall, the bricks of which are piled in regular order one above the other, but not united together by any cementing medium. The tabulae are easily separated, one from the other, by simply inserting a lever between the chinks of the stratification.

As we issue from the gorge on the Terre Neuve road and enter on the Savannah of the Port à Piment

the aspect of the scenery changes entirely. We observe, a number of low dome shaped hills that take a direction for the most from North to South, thus imparting the appearance of an undulating surface to this portion of the Savannah. As we near the sea, however, the low hills are replaced by mounds, scattered apparently at random like heaps of earth shot down out of a cart. These mounds are composed of the tabulated masses of Argillaceous limestone. We detect, however, something in the tabulæ in these mounds that does not occur either at the Escalier, nor at the Bianac near Gonaïves. The surface of each tabulated mass is marked by distinct striæ, running diagonally between the lines of stratification and the joints, as if each mass were composed of a series of diagonal laminæ, united together and turned edge-wise up, thus imparting the character of false slaty cleavage to the whole mass.

Projecting through the surface of the Savannah, are large masses of Jasper, something in the form of boulders, and taking a direction for the most part from North to South; thus corresponding to the direction of the dome-shaped hills which offer themselves to our observation as soon as we enter on the Savannah.

The causes which have operated in the formation of this Savannah, can scarcely be doubted. Unquestionably, these tabulæ have been formed from a sediment deposited within an estuary, which has been elevated by the agency of a mud volcano, to which also we owe the masses of jasper that project through the

surface of the Savannah, as well as the thermal spring already noticed. Those of my readers who have perused Hugh Miller's Sketch Book of Popular Geology, will remember his account of the Wealden, and his theory of its origin. If I remember rightly, he says that the Wealden is an oolitic estuary, and he is careful to note in connexion with this, the low mounds and hillocks which occur in that part of Scotland that form the Wealden. Though the Savannah, is a recent formation, falling perhaps—I say, perhaps, for my time did now allow me to prosecute researches with a view to determine this point,—within the *Pliocene* period, yet it presents in its low hills and mounds, shot down apparently at random, a striking resemblance to those of the Scottish Wealden, such indeed as would lead us to infer that they were formed under like conditions. This view is further strengthened when we take into account that portion of the Savannah usually designated the Saline; that is, supposing we regard it as a lagoon formed subsequently to the upheaval of the estuary, an event perhaps contemporaneous with the elevation of the last coast line. This tabulated limestone, like the compact variety of the white limestone, which overlays it, is non-fossiliferous, and extends over nearly forty square miles. It is a very interesting member of the sedimentary rocks and full of importance in the geological history of Haïti, as illustrating its origin. It is, in addition, not without economic value, because each mass is, so to speak, a natural tile and sufficiently hard to be employed as a paving stone, either for court yards or piazzas.

At le Borgne, we find the indurated shale which underlies the nonfossiliferous conglomerate of that district assuming this tabulated structure. This shale is of a light brown color, and of an argillaceous character; it is highly indurated, and is traversed by minute veins of crystals of carbonate of lime. This fact is worthy of note, as indicating a transition from the tabulated argillaceous limestone to the indurated shale. The tabulated structure is no doubt attributable, in a great measure, to the action of heat. It is commonly supposed, upon the authority of professor Sedgwick, that slaty cleavage and jointed structure are dependent on the same cause, namely, "a crystalline determination and arrangement of the fine particles of mud, of which the rocks were originally composed."* According to Sir Charles Lyell, heat is the agent to which must be attributed this crystalline determination. Alluding to jointed structure, he says:† "Now these joints are supposed to be analogous to those partings which have been already observed to separate volcanic and plutonic rocks into cuboidal and prismatic masses. On a small scale we see clay and starch, when dry, split into similar shapes which is often caused by simple contraction, whether the shrinking be due to the evaporation of water, or to a change of temperature. It is well known that many sandstones and other rocks expand by the application of moderate degrees of heat, and then contract again on cooling, and there can be no

* Murchison's *Siluria*, p. 33, (1854.)

† Lyell's *Elements of Geology*, p. 234, (1838.)

doubt that large portions of the earth's crust have, in the course of past ages, been subjected again and again to very different degrees of heat and cold. These alternations of temperature have probably contributed largely to the production of joints in rocks." The proximity of the shale and tabulated limestone to the porphyritic rocks of the central ridge of mountains is sufficient to furnish the conditions necessary to bring about the jointed structure, and, as a consequence, the formation of the tabulated masses of which I have been speaking.

4. NON-FOSSILIFEROUS CONGLOMERATE.—This conglomerate begins North and North West of le Borgne, extending by way of the city of Cap-Haitien, to within a short distance of Grande Rivierre, where we find it reposing against a dark silicious shale highly indurated, and traversed in all directions by veins of crystallised carbonate of lime. South-west of le Borgne, and in the vicinity of Anse à Foleure, we find the white limestone skirting the sea shore in the form of lofty cliffs. Posterior to this limestone, and looking rather South, and extending to the North-east, in the direction of le Borgne, we trace the same conglomerate as that which exists at Borgne. Posterior to the conglomerate and further South, is a dark micacious sandstone, reposing on a dark argillaceous shale which in turn is succeeded by a grayish feldspathic porphyry, through which crystals of white iron pyrites are diffused.

The relative position of the sedimentary and other rocks in this district, is as follows :

1. White limestone,
2. Non-fossiliferous conglomerate,
3. Micaceous sandstone,
4. Argillaceous shale,
5. Grayish feldspathic porphyry.

South of Jean Rabel, I found the rocks maintaining the like relative position, thus :

1. White limestone,
2. (Conglomerate—wanting,)
3. Ferruginous sandstone and shale,
4. Green porphyry containing veins of Greenstone Syenite and Syenitic Granite, but no metallic matter.

5. SANDSTONES AND SHALES.—The relative position which the micaceous sandstone, that occurs South of Anse à Foleure, occupies with regard to the shale and the porphyritic rocks, being identical with that of the Ferruginous sandstone of Jean Rabel and Port de Paix—leaves us no room to doubt that they are members of the same series. It is remarkable that in neither of these deposits do we trace anything like fossil remains. They are therefore void of interest to the palæontologist. Though the micaceous sandstone is hard, and might therefore possess some economic value, I cannot say the same of the Ferruginous variety, this being so soft and broken up, that it is utterly worthless.

6. PORPHYRITIC ROCKS.—Of these, I noted the following varieties :—

1. *Clay Porphyry* containing crystals of *Augite* and *Olivine*, with minute crystals of *Feldspar*.

2. *Green Porphyry*, traversed by veins of *Greenstone*, *Syenite*, and *Syenitic Granite*.

3. *Augitic porphyry*—feldspathic base with crystals of *augite*.

4. *Feldspathic porphyry*, containing crystal of yellow iron pyrites.

The first variety occurs in the neighbourhood of Gros Morne, and Terre Neuve; the second in the neighbourhood of Jean Rabel; the third near Port de Paix; and the fourth South of Anse à Foleure.

7. METALLIC SUBSTANCES.—In the porphyry at Terre Neuve, we have indications of Copper mines of excellent promise. Thus at the habitation, Dolon, on the mountain Verboucheau, there are in the porphyry well defined veins of Blue carbonate of Copper, associated with the Gray oxide, and Native copper, the latter being most abundant. The direction of the veins is from East to West. On the heights, North of the village, on the Morne Rabouteau, we also discover veins of Blue carbonate, associated with the gray and red oxides of copper; the direction of the veins being from East to West, as in the locality first named. I also discovered other indications of copper at a short distance from the village,

on the road leading to the Savannah of Port à Piment, but in this locality, the veins were not so distinct, and even where they were sufficiently defined to enable me to take their compass bearings, I found that they took an opposite direction, that is from North to South.

The direction which the veins of copper take in the mountains of Rabontean and Verbouchéan, corresponds with the direction usual in the mines of Cornwall, while, in the presence of a very large percentage of native metal, they compare favorably with the copper mines of North America. The difficulties which lay in the way, when a geologist or a miner is called upon to pronounce an opinion on any of the West India copper mines, are so numerous that I do not feel myself justified in speaking too positively with regard to the indications of copper in the mountains of Terre Neuve; nevertheless, I may go the length of saying, that it seems to me, they promise well, and I feel no hesitation in adding what a gentleman said, to whom I exhibited my specimens—"there is nothing like these in Jamaica, and certainly nothing in Cuba to surpass them."

Only in another locality, that is the Morne Celon, I had another opportunity of examining other metallic indications. These were traces of copper in quartz. These indications were discovered by Mr. Simon Spencer, of America, who most confidently affirmed, that they promised a rich mine of what he termed

"auriferous copper ore." I feel myself bound to admit that the indications were most flattering; but a question was raised by M. Eugene Nau, which must also be noted, that is, whether these indications may not, after all, be veins of quartz traversing the porphyry, and simply stained with blue carbonate. The problem rests between M. Nau and Mr. Spencer for solution, either in the affirmative or negative. I can offer no opinion, for although anxious to settle the question raised, in one direction or another, by actual observation, my colleague having declined, I was, from local circumstances, compelled to abandon my purpose. I doubt not, however, that Mr. Spencer has energy and ability as a practical man, sufficient to enable him to establish his assertion. In his hands, I accordingly leave it. There are said to be indications of copper in other parts of Haïti, but as none of these fell under my personal observation, I have no remarks to offer on them.

In addition, two specimens of Galena (*Sulphuret of Lead*) were handed to me by the Government, as Argentiferous Galena, but which, upon analysis, proved to contain no silver at all. The first was from Anse à Veau obtained apparently from a calcareous alluvium, as, it bore from its rolled appearance, indications of having been transported from a distance. The second was from Baradere. Adjut-General Veuchereau, the Commandant la Place at Dessaline, handed to me a specimen of Galena mineralized with calcareous spar which he said he found in a water course that traverses his

garden, and which, apparently, is connected with the ravine Symmonette. I examined this ravine, but although I found several fragments of calcareous spar, I found no traces of Galena either in the form of what cornish miners term Shode-stones, nor any superficial indications of the existence of a mine of lead.

At Terre Neuve I found large masses of magnetic iron ore in the bed of the river, which were apparently transported from a considerable distance by the stream; but the want of time precluded my seeking out the locality from which these masses were derived. It is more than likely however that this iron will be found associated with the copper of the district. Whilst at Port-au-Prince, M. Chenet furnished me with a specimen of iron ore from Morne Béclay au Trou, very like that which I found at the Terre Neuve. This specimen yielded when analysed of Protoxide of Iron 91.0 — 63.7 of pure Iron; another specimen, obtained from l'Attalaye, yielded of Protoxide of Iron 40.0 — 28.0, of pure Iron; of black oxide of Maganese 0.10; and of Silica 58.10 = 100.0.

I mention these facts as affording *prima facie* evidence that mines of Lead and Iron, as well as of Copper, exist in Haïti; and that, therefore, supposing the mineral deposits are of any extent, we may regard this country as offering an interesting, and doubtless, a profitable field for mining enterprise.

8. LIGNITE.—In order to complete the review of the

geology of Haïti, and at the same time to present my readers further with the means of judging of the mineral wealth of this country, I subjoin the following which formed the substance of a report presented by me to the Haïtien government.

The relative commercial value of mineral fuel, is determined according to the percentage of combustible matter which each variety contains. There are several varieties of mineral fuel, known respectively as Peat, Lignite, Anthracite and Bituminous coal. The last named variety is found only in the old geological formations, the former varieties chiefly within the Tertiaries and Human period. The deposits of mineral fuel in Haïti, fall chiefly under the head of Lignite and Anthracite. Judging from the fossils, principally conchifers and bivalves, similar but not the same with extant shells, which accompany these deposits, I conclude that they belong to the *Eocene* or early Tertiary formation.

Lignite, sometimes called brown coal, is usually distinguished as bituminous and non-bituminous. In bituminous lignite the quantity of bitumen and other volatile matter vary from 40 to 60 per cent., the proportion of carbon within the same limits; and the ashes from 4 to 10 per cent. There is a variety of bituminous lignite, commonly known as Steam-coal, containing from 11 to 15 per cent. of bitumen and other volatile matter, and from

80 to 85 per cent. of carbon.* A specimen of this coal was found in Maine, one of the States of North America, which yielded, upon analysis, 72 per cent. of bitumen, 21 of carbon, and 7 of ashes.† In non-bituminous lignite, the quantity of carbon varies from 50 to 70 per cent.

The specimens of lignite which were submitted to me by the Haitien government for analysis, fall respectively under the head of bituminous and non-bituminous. Of the bituminous specimens, that from *l'Azile sur la riviere Derge* yielded, upon analysis, of

Bitumen and other volatile matter	50.0	} — 75.0 of combustible matter.
Carbon	25.0	
Ashes, consisting of Iron, Lime, } Alumina and Silica .. }	25.0	
	100.0	

That from Lasgoiamos *section de Morange, commune de Hinche*, yielded of

Bitumen and other volatile matter	60.0	} — 92.5 of combustible matter.
Carbon	32.5	
Ashes, consisting of Iron, Lime, } Alumina and Sand .. }	7.5	
	100.0	

These two specimens are all that fall properly under

* These facts are gathered from Professor Ansted's paper on Geology, in Orr's Circle of the Sciences.

† Mantell's Medals of Creation—Vol. 1, p. 89.

the head of bituminous Lignite. It will be seen that they do not, by any means, compare badly with Lignite, found in other parts of the world. The other specimens of lignite submitted to analysis, are non-bituminous, of which two are from Anse à Veau.

	No. 1	No. 2
Carbon	50. 0	75. 0
Ashes, consisting of Iron, Alumina and Silica }	50. 0	25. 0
	100. 0	100. 0

The next is from Banica, and consists of

Carbon	66. 7
Ashes, — Silica, with a trace of Iron ..	33. 3
	100. 0

Two specimens, taken respectively from Hinche, and from a locality not named, yielded, of

	No. 1	No. 2
Carbon	92. 5	90. 0
Ashes, — Iron, Lime, Alumina, and Silica }	7. 5	10. 0
	100. 0	100. 0

By comparing these results with the statistics given above, it will be observed, that the two first specimens are lignite of very good quality ; and that the two last

contain a per centage of carbon equal to that yielded by the best Anthracite; indeed, but for their minerological characteristics, they might be designated Anthracites. Anthracite, we must remark in passing, contains on an average from 80 to 95 per cent. of Carbon. A specimen of anthracite, submitted to me by Mr. Simon Spencer, which this gentleman assured me was obtained at Anse à Veau, yielded upon analysis, of

Carbon	...	..	..	76.0
Ashes	..	..	..	24.0
				100.0

This specimen, although falling below the average quantity of Carbon usually found in Anthracite of the best quality, is nevertheless, from its minerological characteristics, a true Anthracite.

CHAPTER VI.

The Earthquake of 1842.

"Several facts tend to prove that the causes which produce Earthquakes, have a near connection with those which act in volcanic eruptions. The connection of these causes was known to the ancients, and it excited fresh attention at the period of the discovery of America."—HUMBOLDT.

The researches of Geologists on Earthquakes have established some important facts in connection with them. Such as : That Earthquakes are usually associated with volcanic manifestations ; that the countries most subject to Earthquakes are those which owe their origin to volcanic action, and are liable to alternate periods of elevation and depression ; that those countries are, for the most part, islands, and such as are proximate to the sea shore of continents. The phenomena of elevation and depression, are not, however, linked to Earthquakes—and indirectly to volcanic action—in the invariable relation of effect to cause, because we have reason to believe that elevations are

frequently slow and imperceptible, and extend over protracted periods ; at the same time, we cannot do otherwise than regard it as a most important and interesting fact, that those countries which have been ascertained to be undergoing a gradual elevation, even now, exhibit it most strongly on the sea shore, such as Patagonia ; Jamaica, especially about the South-east ; and Haïti about the North and North-West.

When we direct our attention to the action of Earthquakes, we find instances in which the alternate upheaving and depressing are most decided, while in other cases they act in the way of undulatory waves of concussion, as if the action proceeded from a centre towards a somewhat undefined circumference. The Earthquake of 1842, which laid in ruins the city of Cap-Haïtien, and perhaps, with some few exceptions, nearly all the Earthquakes which have taken place in the West India group of islands, have resulted from undulatory waves of concussion. With reference to the West India Earthquakes, of any note, we observe :

1st. That they occur within two distinct periods, the first falls within the months of April, May, and June, and the second within the months of November, December, and February. I do not intend it to be inferred that Earthquakes may not happen at other times, but that they may be looked for within these two periods, and with greater violence and regularity within the first, than the second period. Thus, the

great Earthquake of Port Royal, occurred on the 7th of June, 1692, so also what is usually designated the great Earthquake of Port-au-Prince, happened on the 3rd of June, 1770; the Antigua Earthquake, was in May, 1846, and the Earthquake which destroyed the city of the Cape, took place on the evening of May 7th, 1842, to which; we must add those of April 8th, in the last, (1860), and the present year, (1861).

2nd. There are two distinct circles of concussion; one from East to West, and the other from North-east to South-west. The circles of concussion extend between 28 deg. east, and 80 deg. west longitude, and from 60 deg. to 23 deg. north latitude, the circles extending to, but, in no case, passing beyond, the equator. The Earthquake of Gaudalope, Feb. 8th, 1842, appeared to have acted from N.E. to S.W., extending from 49 deg. W. longitude to the equator.

3rd. The centre from which these waves of concussion proceed appears to be the volcano Pico of the Azores, which lays about 41 deg. N. latitude. So that, in reality, the Earthquake of May 7th, 1842, which destroyed the city of Cap-Haïtien, is only the effects of the wave of concussion which destroyed the city of Lisbon, extending farther from the north in the south-westerly direction. Thus it would appear that the circle is gradually widening from the north to the south-west.

4th. The circle of concussion which extends from the N.E. to the S.W. is of an upheaving character.

During my sojourn in Haïti I visited nearly all the localities which suffered from the earthquake of the 7th May, 1842, and, besides making careful observations on the ruins which are to be found in the several localities, I was careful to institute inquiries of those who were eye-witnesses of this awful catastrophe. At le Borgne not a house was left standing. The first shock was felt at a quarter after five o'clock, the undulations proceeding from N. to S. This was followed by a second shock, which laid the whole village in ruins. The water of the Ester rose very high; the earth cracked and opened through the whole length of the village, a large quantity of black sand being poured out through the fissures. At the same time, the water of the sea was observed to retire from the shore to a considerable distance. This was succeeded by a third shock, when the sea arose apparently higher than the two houses which remained standing, rolling in towards the shore in the form of large black waves, so that they seemed to threaten the total engulfment of the site of the village. As they approached the shore, however, they gradually subsided, and simply took up the position which they had occupied prior to the second shock. From this time shocks of Earthquake continued to be felt at short intervals until eight o'clock next morning, and, from time to time, until the 24th June, when the last terrible shock occurred. We

trace the effects of this Earthquake from le Borgne to Port Margo, and Limbe, until we reach the city of Cap-Haïtien, once the most magnificent city in the West Indies, but now most remarkable for its ruins. On all hands the ruins of the former city are to be seen. Broken walls and razed structures are all that remain to attest a magnificence which gained for it the title of "the Paris of the Antilles." The church, the palace, the mansion and the cottage, participated in the common catastrophe. The church, situated more north and east, did not suffer to the same extent as some of the other buildings. Its naked and roofless walls yet remain standing. The palace of Christophe, situated more S.W., was laid in utter ruins. Except the tower and a small arched-stair case leading, apparently, to a private cabinet, nothing of this extensive building remains standing. We may say of the rest, that the ruin of the city was complete. The houses fell, for the most part, into the streets; the walls looking S.W. being thrown down, whilst those having a north-easterly direction remain standing. Some of those who yet survive to tell the story, say, that the day, on the evening of which this Earthquake occurred, was still, clear, and sultry, but that immediately after the first shock the heavens, as in an instant, became overcast. The first shock was attended with no serious results. This was followed by a second which laid the whole city in ruins. The sea, at the first shock, rose to a considerable height, but on

the second, retired. Mons. J. E. Caze, a merchant in the city, and an eye-witness, compared it to the sudden stoppage of a cart, the wheels of which had fallen off, so suddenly and so completely was the whole city laid in ruins, and upwards of 4,000 human beings destroyed.

At Grande Rivierre, we find traces of the effects of this Earthquake, but, owing partly to the inland position of this village, and partly to the character of the buildings, the violence of the shocks are not so evident as at the Cape and le Borgne. Indeed, the further south and west you proceed the fewer traces of this Earthquake are to be observed. Thus, at Gonaïves, and at the Mole St. Nicholas, the concussions were comparatively slight, and no damage was done. We find no Earthquake ruins either at St. Marc or at Port-au-Prince. At Port de Paix, a town lying rather south-westerly, and on the sea shore, we find the most marked indications of the violence of the shocks. Here, as at the city of Cap-Haïtien, the buildings fell towards the S. W., all the N. E. walls remaining upright, and even those walls that remain standing appear to be tilted up in a north-easterly direction. Further inland, and more west, is the village of Jean Rabel, where we trace Earthquake ruins, but not so numerous and wide-spread as those at Port de Paix.

From the observations made on the ruins, and from the accounts of eye-witnesses, it is apparent that the

concussions moved from N. E. to S. W., and that the violence gradually died out as the circle of concussion extended further S. and W. It is also evident that the centre of these concussions is not situated within the island of Haïti, and that the places already noticed, as having suffered most from the effects of this Earthquake, form the segment of a circle. Whilst judging from the effects of the Earthquake on the waters of the sea at the Cape and le Borgne, and the accounts given of the shocks by those who felt them, and who still survive to tell this sad story, as well as the compass bearing of the ruins, it is very evident that the action is upheaving, and, chiefly in the direction of the shocks, that is, from N. E. to S. W.

There is no reason to think that the cause of these concussions has died out ; on the contrary, it seems to be still in active operation, and that, the circle of concussion is widening, and is making itself more extensively felt. This is the case with the Earthquake of the 8th April, 1860, and of the same date of the present year. The concussions proceeded from N.E. to S. W., as in the case of the Earthquake of 1842. These two last Earthquakes were more extensively felt, than that of 1842.

CHAPTER VII.

The Agriculture of Haiti.

" O happy, if he knew his happy state,
" The swain, who, free from business and debate,
" Receives his easy food from Nature's hands,
" And just returns of cultivated lands."—DRYDEN.

Though the cultivation of the soil by slave labor is attended with prosperity while it lasts, it operates in the end as a blight; and it is followed, upon its abolition, by a wide-spread depression and poverty, that more than counter-balance any supposed advantage, gained in the first instance by it, or whatever degree of wealth that might have accrued from it. Haïti and Jamaica afford very striking illustrations of the truth of this position. The secondary causes operating in both countries are however different, so that the ultimate effects of slavery on their respective agricultural interests are equally far removed, the one from the other. Thus, notwithstanding the peculiar difficulties against which the agriculturalists of Jamaica have had

to contend, we find that Jamaica has succeeded in maintaining a certain status as an agricultural country. Haïti, on the contrary, having no controlling influences from without to struggle against, has very nearly ceased to be so. The decadence of agriculture in Haïti is to be traced, not, as some contend, to the extreme indolence and apathy of the black man, but, chiefly to a series of circumstances arising in the order of a sequence, one out of the other. The radical evil is the military form of government, the mal-administration of which frequently occasions revolutions, which in turn lead to loss of confidence, and finally eventuate in the general prevalence of the "small settler" or "squatting system," there being no body of large landholders, and independent proprietors.

That peculiar principle in military governments, which requires every male arrived at a certain age to serve in the army, obtains equally in Haïti, and with its usual pernicious effects, considerably intensified. One of the common effects of slavery as a domestic institution, is to be observed in Haïti as in Jamaica, that is, an inadequate laboring population. It can be no difficult task to ascertain how this state of things must intensify the evil effects of that portion of the military code of Haïti which requires every man in the republic to devote a considerable portion of his time to military service, instead of devoting himself to the cultivation of the soil. As a consequence, there

has not been hitherto, and indeed there can be under such circumstances, no steady efforts made to keep up the agricultural status of the country. We have, in these conditions, sufficient to account for the unhappy decline of the agriculture of this fertile and highly interesting island, enough to show us why, after more than half a century of independence, its agriculture has not advanced beyond the ruin and devastation consequent upon the struggles of the first revolution. But if even it were possible to maintain steadily and systematically the cultivation of the soil, amidst all these peculiar disadvantages, the dread of revolutions was of itself quite sufficient to deter any man from investing capital to any extent in agricultural pursuits. To this cause, likewise, we must perhaps attribute the fact, that holders of large and fertile tracts of land, even where they have the necessary capital, and can command the labor, make no efforts to convert their ruinous land into "fields of laughing corn"—"*laetas segetes*"—or luxuriant sugar cane. It will also account for the number of partially cultivated sugar plantations which we see scattered over the whole of this part of the island, like spectres of the past lingering on the confines of the present. With a form of government ever liable to merge into a despotism, and with no means in the power of the governed to restrain the lawless exercise of power on the part of those who hold the reins of government, there is always just cause for apprehending the outbreak of re-

voluntary contests, with the consequent necessity, on the part of the proprietor, for saying,

“ Farewell, my pastures, my paternal stock,
“ My fruitful fields, and my more fruitful flock !”

Taking the nature of their case into consideration, we cannot charge the laborers of Haïti with a disinclination to work in the same sense, and to the same extent that we can bring the charge against the people of this country ; for the reason, that the demands made on them for military service are so numerous, that they have scarcely any time left them to devote to the cultivation of the soil. Under such circumstances, we find sufficient to induce them to abstain from anything like steady industrial pursuits, and, therefore, enough to account for the decadence of Haïtien agriculture, as well as, their imports so far exceeding their export trade.

In the past the staples of Haïti were identical with those of Jamaica—sugar, coffee and indigo. Of these only coffee remains to them. In this respect, very nearly the reverse has happened to Jamaica. We have continued to be a sugar and rum producing country ; and although we continue to send a little coffee into the market, we are far below mediocrity in this respect, when we contrast the present with by-gone days. The coffee which is now being exported from Haïti is not the product of present industry, but the remains of the industry of the past. It is obtained

from trees, the greater portion of which were planted during the old French régime. In Haïti the coffee trees are not pruned as they are in Jamaica ; they are suffered to grow luxuriantly, and to attain to a considerable height ; and the trees in consequence reach a much greater age than they do in this country, and continue to bear for a much longer time. These trees have fallen into the hands of the small settlers, who care them, and, by planting from time to time, replace the older trees as they die out.

From what has been said, in the course of this and the foregoing chapters, the reader will doubtless gather, that although sugar has ceased to be an article of trade, the cultivation of the sugar cane is still partially kept up, but only to an extent sufficient for home consumption, in the form of "*sirop*" and "*tafia*." President Geffrard, with his wonted anxiety for the good of his country, is directing his energies to the restoration of the cultivation of the sugar cane, and the manufacture of granulated sugar. With a free influx of immigrants from America, and an ample supply of agricultural implements, little difficulty could be experienced on this head, considering the facilities which the government is willing to afford in respect of this matter. So far as I have been able to learn, the government has undertaken to import improved implements of husbandry, and machinery for the manufacture of sugar, and to supply them to persons engaged in the cultivation of the soil, and the resuscita-

tion of the manufacture of sugar, on the condition, that those to whom implements and machinery are supplied, pay a tenth part of the original cost annually, with six per cent interest, and a commission of five per cent on the purchase, until the government is reimbursed.

The people of Jamaica are essentially English in their notions; those of Haïti are equally French. What in England is left to associated or individual enterprise, is undertaken and carried out by the government in France. In France, scarcely one step is taken in advance without the interference of the government. The government is everything in France; in England it is next to nothing. To an equal extent this remark applies to Jamaica and Haïti. We see this fully exemplified in the steps which the Haïtien government has taken in regard to this question. The facilities offered by this arrangement, coupled with the risk incurred by the government, will, it is to be hoped, be sufficient to induce the owners of Haïtien soil to turn their attention to the resuscitation of a staple, which cannot fail to be a source, not only of personal, but national wealth.

The cultivation of cotton is also a subject to which the government of Haïti is directing the attention of the people almost daily; urging the prosecution of it on them in every possible way. As we have already seen, they have taken some steps in this direction, and

although they have not accomplished as much as it is desirable that they should, yet, the fact that something has already been accomplished in this way is an earnest for the future, not only in regard to cotton, but also in regard to sugar and indigo. We cannot for the present, reasonably hope to see the cultivation of these staples carried to the same height, as in the days of the old régime; at least many years must elapse ere it arrive at this point of success.

From the intense hatred which possesses the mind of every Haïtien against the institution of slavery, they are exceedingly enthusiastic in the matter of cotton cultivation, in the hope that however feeble the opposition which they may be able to offer to the American slave-holder in the cotton market, it may be such, that the full weight of it should be thrown into the balance against them, and that thus they may, however indirectly, be aiding in the emancipation of the slaves in the Southern states. The design is a laudable one, and worthy of those generous feelings which actuate the Haïtien mind. We admire the sentiment, but we question its practicability. It must not be inferred from this, that the soil of Haïti is not adapted for the cultivation of cotton, or that if all the land adapted for the purpose were laid under tribute, that the opposition which the free grown cotton of Haïti could offer to that of the slave-grown cotton of the Southern States would be mean. Much the contrary; but we feel dubious of their

influence in this respect, because the population is not adequate to the purpose. The government seems to be fully alive to the difficulties of their case in this respect, and they are therefore making strenuous efforts to bring about a full stream of immigration of the American free coloured and black people. From certain interested persons in America, this scheme has received violent opposition, founded for the most part on the fact that such an undertaking was attempted in the days of President Boyer, and from one cause and another failed; and it has been argued, that inasmuch as the enterprise failed, then, when the treasury of Haïti was more solvent, and when the condition of the country was, as they say, better than it is at present, it is, they contend, not likely that the present scheme will prove more successful, and that the immigrants, now as then, will be serious sufferers. Notwithstanding immigrants from America have found their way into Haïti, and, so far as yet, the stream continues to flow. But all who have thus sought a home of liberty and independence in Haïti, have not felt satisfied, either because they drew too largely on their imaginations as to what their prospects and condition would be there, or else they did not take pains to ascertain what these were really likely to be. Others however, are well content with their position, and are actively engaged in the construction of log cabins, in which little more than four feet square are allotted to the accommodation of each individual.

From the place selected by the government for the location of these immigrants, namely, the plain of the Artibonite, it is apparent that their object is to put them in a position for prosecuting a line of industry, suited to their previous habits,—that is, the cultivation of cotton, by which means also they hope to develop the cultivation of this staple to its greatest possible extent. The plain of the Artibonite, is admirably adapted to the growth of cotton; indeed the bulk of the cotton at this moment exported from Haïti is obtained from this locality.

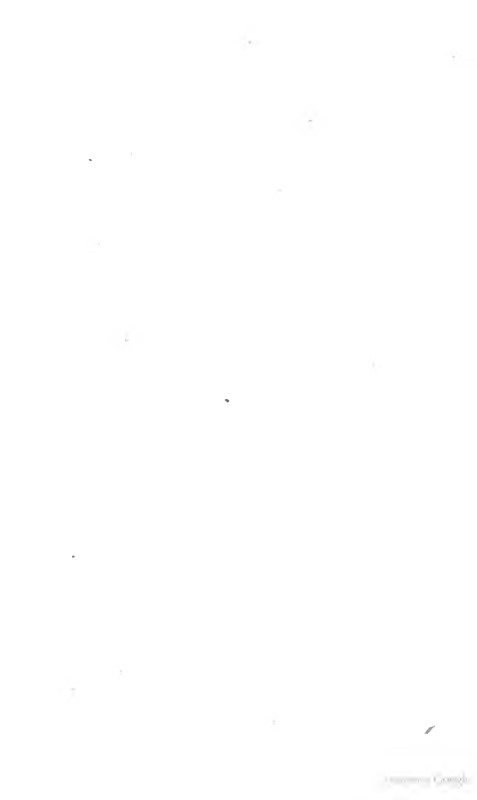
Large quantities of rice are consumed in Haïti. In the sea port towns, and in the villages adjacent, the rice consumed is imported from America. My own impression, when first I began my travels, in regard to this commodity, was that the whole was imported. This, however, I subsequently discovered was not the case. A very large proportion of this article is cultivated for home use. The grain of the Haïtien rice is small, very white and glutinous. In the first respect it resembles the African, in the two last, the Carolina rice. In addition to this, are cultivated the indian or great corn, the guinea corn, cassava, sweet potato, yams, cocoas, red peas, and plantains in considerable abundance.

These last facts show to what extent this people are dependent on their own resources for food, and how far they must rely on foreign aid. We find that they

are in this respect, equal to ourselves, and in one particular, at least, in advance of us. Nevertheless, they are equally dependent for aid from without, in common with ourselves.

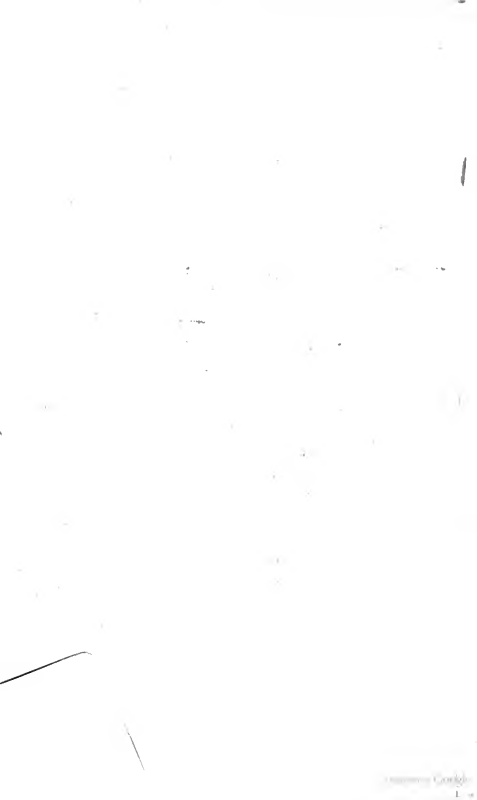
We have now taken a rapid view of the present agricultural condition of Haïti; we have attempted to trace its decadence as a producing country, and while we are compelled to admit, that it is, agriculturally speaking, in the very worst condition, we see that its decline in this respect is the result of a combination of adverse circumstances. We have, also, briefly glanced at the means which are being employed to resuscitate it, and we can only express the hope, that they will prove successful in the end, and that Haïti will steadily advance in the paths of civilization, under the guidance of its present enlightened and patriotic President—
FABRE GEFFRARD.

THE END.











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